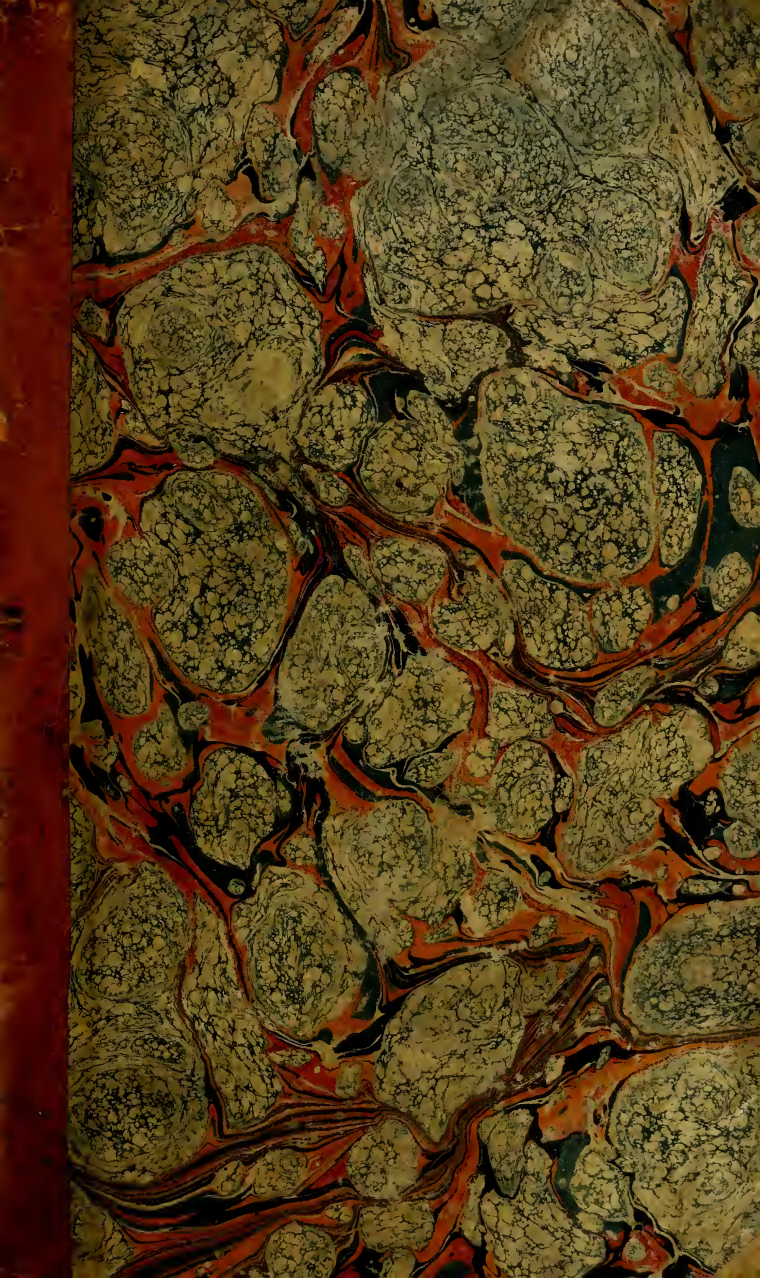

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THE

NAVAL AND MILITARY

HISTORY

OF THE

WARS OF ENGLAND,

INCLUDING

The WARS of SCOTLAND and IRELAND.

IN WHICH IS GIVEN

An accurate and lively Deſcription of the SIEGES, BATTLES, BOMBARDMENTS, SEA-ENGAGEMENTS, EXPEDITIONS, and extenſive CONQUESTS, of the BRITISH ARMS, in all Quarters of the Globe:

WITH A VARIETY OF

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VOL. V.

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THE

NAVAL AND MILITARY HISTORY OF THE WARS OF ENGLAND.

OF THE WARS OF ENGLAND DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE I.

THE acceſſion of the Elector of Hanover to the Britiſh throne, on the death of his couſin, Queen Anne, was brought about by a ſtatute made in the twelfth year of William III. for limiting the ſucceſſion of the crown to the next proteſtant heirs: for the Princeſs Sophia, electreſs-dowager of Hanover, was daughter to the Queen of Bohemia, who, before her marriage with the Elector Palatine, was ſtiled the Princeſs Elizabeth of Great Britain, daughter to James VI. of Scotland and I. of England; in whom united all the hereditary claims to the crown of theſe realms. But, the Princeſs Sophia dying a very little while before the queen, George-Lewis, elector of Hanover, her ſon, became heir of this crown on the demiſe of Queen Anne, and was accordingly called to the ſucceſſion, in the manner directed by another ſtatute, paſſed in the ninth year of her majeſty's reign. For, by that law, the adminiſtration of the government, immediately on the queen's death, devolved on ſeven perſons named in the act, in conjunction with as many

as the ſucceſſor ſhould think fit to appoint in the manner directed by that law.

On the 17th of Auguſt, 1714, the Earl of Berkley ſailed, with a ſquadron of ſixteen men of war, and ſix yachts, for Holland, having on-board the Earl of Dorſet, in order to attend his majeſty. There he was joined by eight ſhips of the States-general, under Rear-admiral Coperan; and, to ſecure the coaſts and the channel, Admiral Wager was ſent down to Portſmouth, and Sir Thomas Hardy to Plymouth, to equip ſuch ſhips as were fit for ſervice.

No tumult, no commotion, roſe againſt the acceſſion of the new king; and this gives a ſtrong proof that the tories, had they really intended to exclude him, never took any rational meaſures to accompliſh their purpoſe.

The king firſt landed at Greenwich, where he was received by the Duke of Northumberland, captain of the life-guard, and the lords of the regency. From the landing-place he walked to his houſe in the park, accompanied by a great number of the nobility, and other perſons of diſtinction, who expected to make their court in this reign in conſequence of their turbulence and oppoſition to the reigning party in the laſt.

George I. was 54 years old when he aſcended the Britiſh throne. His mature age, his ſagacity and experience, his numerous alliances, and the general tranquillity of Europe, all contributed to eſtabliſh his intereſts and promiſe him a peaceable and happy reign.

His virtues, though not ſhining, were ſolid; and he was of a very different diſpoſition from the Stuart family, whom he ſucceeded. Theſe were known to a proverb for leaving their friends in extremity; George, on the contrary, ſoon after his arrival in England, was heard to ſay, "My maxim is, never to abandon my friends, to do juſtice to all the world, and to fear no man." To theſe qualities of reſolution and perſeverance, he joined great application to buſineſs. One fault,

fault, however, with regard to England, remained behind: he ſtudied the intereſts of the kingdom he had left more than of thoſe he came to govern.

The new king ſoon diſcovered his inclination to ſupport thoſe who had raiſed him to the throne, that is, the whig party. When he retired to his bed-chamber, after his firſt landing, he ſent for ſuch of the nobility as had diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their zeal for his ſucceſſion. He expreſſed the greateſt regard for the Duke of Marlborough, juſt then arrived from the continent, whither he had been driven by the violence of the tories. The ſame friendſhip he profeſſed for the other leaders of the whigs; but the tories found themſelves excluded from the royal favour. The king did not ſeem ſenſible that the monarch of a faction rules but one-half of his ſubjects. It was his misfortune, and conſequently that of the nation, that he was hemmed round by men who ſoured him with all their own intereſts and prejudices. The whigs, while they pretended to ſecure the crown for the king, were uſing all their art to confirm their own intereſts, extend their connections, and give laws to their ſovereign. An inſtantaneous change was made in all the offices of truſt, honour, or advantage. The names of the contending parties were changed into thoſe of Hanoverians and Jacobites. The former governed the ſenate and court, oppreſſed whom they would, bound the lower orders of people by ſevere laws, and kept them at a diſtance by vile diſtinctions.

In conſequence of theſe partialities, the higheſt diſcontents were raiſed through the whole kingdom. The tories or Jacobites raiſed the moſt terrible outcries; and, had the pretender been a man of any judgment or abilities, a fair opportunity was now offered him for ſtriking a deciſive blow. Inſtead of this, he continued a calm ſpectator on the continent, and only ſent over his emiſſaries to diſperſe ineffectual manifeſtoes and delude the unwary. In theſe papers he obſerved,

ſerved, that the late queen had intentions of calling him to the crown. He expoſtulated with his people upon the injuſtice they had done themſelves in proclaiming a foreign prince for their ſovereign, contrary to the laws of the country, that gave him alone the real claim. Copies of a printed addreſs were ſent to the dukes of Shrewſbury, Marlborough, Argyle, and other noblemen of the firſt diſtinction; vindicating his right to the crown, and complaining of the injuſtice of his people. Yet, though he ſtill complained of their conduct, he never took any ſtep to correct his own, or remove that obſtacle by which his father had loſt his throne. He ſtill continued to profeſs the trueſt regard to the Catholic religion; and, inſtead of concealing his ſentiments on that head, gloried in his principles.

But, however much the popiſh religion was at that time hated in England, the principles of the diſſenters were not in the leaſt more agreeable to the generality. The tories affirmed, that under a whig adminiſtration hereſy and impiety were daily gaining ground. The lower orders of the clergy joined in theſe complaints, and pointed out ſeveral tracts publiſhed in favour of Arianiſm and Socinianiſm. The miniſtry not only refuſed to puniſh the delinquents, but ſilenced the clergy themſelves, and forbad their future diſputations on theſe topics:—The parliament was now diſſolved, and another called by a very extraordinary proclamation. In this the king complained of the evil deſigns of men diſaffected to his ſucceſſion; and, of their having miſrepreſented his conduct and principles. He expreſſed his hopes, that his ſubjects would ſend up to parliament the fitteſt perſons to redreſs the preſent diſorders. He intreated that they would elect ſuch in particular as had expreſſed a firm attachment to the proteſtant ſucceſſion when it was in danger. In the election of this important parliament, uncommon vigour was exerted on both ſides; but, by dint of the monied

monied intereſt that prevailed in corporations, and the activity of the miniſtry, a great majority of whigs was returned both in England and Scotland.

The new parliament met at Weſtminſter, March the 17th, 1715, and, on the firſt of April, they came to a reſolution, to allow ten thouſand ſeamen, at four pounds a-month; and, on the 9th of May following, granted 135,574l. 3s. 6d. for the half-pay of ſea-officers; 197,896l. 17s. 6d. for the ordinary of the navy; and 237,277l. for the extraordinary repairs of the navy, and rebuilding of ſhips. Theſe large ſums were thought neceſſary, becauſe, at this juncture, the fleet of Great Britain was very much decayed; and, it was foreſeen that, notwithſtanding the peace ſo lately concluded, new diſputes were likely to ariſe, which might require freſh armaments.

A miſunderſtanding had for ſome time ſubſiſted between Sweden and the maritime powers: the Swedes complaining that Great Britain and Holland furniſhed the czar with ſhips and warlike ſtores; in conſequence of which, the Swediſh privateers took many ſhips in the Baltic belonging to the Engliſh and Dutch merchants. The miniſters of England and the States general had preſented memorials to the regency of Sweden; but, not being able to procure redreſs, both ſtates reſolved to protect their trade by force of arms. Sir John Norris, admiral of the blue, was appointed to this ſervice, with a fleet of twenty ſail, and under him Sir Thomas Hardy, rear-admiral of the blue; eighteen of theſe were ſhips of the line, together with the Mermaid frigate, of thirty-two guns, and the Drake ſloop, which carried ſixteen. On the 18th of May, this fleet ſailed to the Baltic, and arrived at the Sound on the 10th day of June following, where it joined the Dutch ſquadron. The combined fleet then took the merchantmen of both countries under their protection, and convoyed them to their reſpective ports. The Engliſh admiral then diſpatched an expreſs

expreſs to Stockholm, to procure from the regency of Sweden a categorical anſwer concerning the meaſures they meant to purſue, offering, at the ſame time, to enter into a negociation for determining the diſputes which had ariſen between the two nations. The anſwer he received from the court of Sweden was ſo vague and unſatisfactory, that our admiral determined no longer to ſuſpend his operations.

About the middle of Auguſt, a Daniſh fleet of twenty ſhips of the line, and a Ruſſian ſquadron, joined Sir John Norris. The Czar Peter was then at Copenhagen, where this confederate fleet was aſſembled. As this prince intended to ſail in one of his own ſhips, he was complimented with the chief command of the whole armament; under him Sir John Norris commanded the Vanguard; the czar was in the centre of the line of battle; the Daniſh admiral, Count Gueldenlow, commanded the rear; and the Dutch commodore, with his ſquadron, and five Britiſh men of war, proceeded, with forty-ſix merchant-ſhips which had juſt then arrived from England, for the ports to which they were deſtined in the Baltic. The Swedes were, at that time, powerful at ſea, although far from able to face ſo large a fleet. They were therefore obliged to ſhelter themſelves in the harbour of Carlſcroon, ſo that the confederates remained undiſputed maſters on the Baltic. In the middle of November, a violent ſtorm attacked the grand fleet near Copenhagen, in which the Auguſt, a ſixty-gun ſhip, was loſt, and likewiſe the Garland, of twenty-four guns. Soon after, the Engliſh and Dutch ſhips were called home.

While a part of our navy was thus employed in the Baltic, the diſaffected party in England and Scotland were exerting themſelves in the cauſe of the pretender. The miniſtry, at the ſame time, were proceeding with great activity againſt all ſuch as were concerned in making the peace of Utrecht. Prior, who had been

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ſent out ambaſſador to the court of France by Queen Anne, was recalled, and the Earl of Stair appointed to that embaſſy, with particular inſtructions to haſten the demolition of the port and fortifications of Dunkirk, and the canal of Mardyke, which that miniſter was extremely active in accompliſhing. Lord Bolingbroke had been removed from his poſt of ſecretary, and the Dukes of Shrewſbury and Somerſet, and Lord Cowper, ſealed up all the doors of his office. Mr. Walpole acquainted the houſe of commons, that notwithſtanding the endeavours which had been uſed to prevent a diſcovery of the late miſmanagements, by conveying away ſeveral papers from the ſecretary's office, yet the government had ſufficient evidence left, to prove the late miniſtry the moſt corrupt that ever ſat at the helm. Hereupon Lord Bolingbroke, who had hitherto appeared in public as uſual, and had ſpoken in the houſe of lords with great freedom and confidence, thought it now high time to ſave himſelf by flight. He therefore retired to France.

On the 9th of April, 1715, General Stanhope delivered to the houſe of commons fourteen volumes, in which were contained all the papers relating to the late negociations of peace and commerce, as well as to the ceſſation of arms, the conſideration of which was referred to a ſelect committee, of which Mr. Walpole was choſen chairman. On the 9th of June, Mr. Walpole informed the houſe that the report was ready to be made, and in the mean time moved, that a warrant might be iſſued by the ſpeaker for the apprehending Mr. Matthew Prior and Mr. Thomas Harley, who, being at that time in the houſe, were immediately taken into cuſtody. Then he read the report, ranged under theſe different heads; The clandeſtine negociation with Monſieur Menager; the extraordinary meaſures purſued to form the congreſs at Utrecht; the trifling of the French plenipotentiaries, by the connivance of the Britiſh miniſters; the negociation about

the renunciation of the Spaniſh monarchy; the fatal ſuſpenſion of arms; the ſeizure of Ghent and Burges, in order to diſtreſs the allies and favour the French; the Duke of Ormond's acting in concert with the French general; Lord Bolingbroke's journey to France to negociate a ſeparate peace; Mr. Prior's and the Duke of Shrewſbury's negociations in France; the precipitate concluſion of the peace at Utrecht. He then impeached Henry lord viſcount Bolingbroke of high treaſon, and other high crimes and miſdemeanors. Then Lord Coningſby, ſtanding up, ſaid, "The worthy chairman has impeached the hand, but I impeach the head: he has impeached the clerk, and I the juſtice: he has impeached the ſcholar, and I the maſter. I impeach Robert earl of Oxford and Mortimer of high-treaſon, and other crimes and miſdemeanors." To which the houſe aſſented without a diviſion. The Duke of Ormond was a few days afterwards impeached; but, to avoid the conſequences that might enſue, retired out of the kingdom.

The violence of the commons was anſwered with equal violence without doors. Tumults became every day more frequent, and every tumult ſerved only to increaſe the ſeverity of the legiſlature. They now paſſed an act, declaring, that if any perſons, to the number of twelve, unlawfully aſſembled, ſhould continue together one hour after being required to diſperſe by a juſtice of peace, or other officer, and after hearing the act againſt riots read in public, they ſhould be deemed guilty of felony, without benefit of clergy. This was conſidered as a very ſevere act, and one of the greateſt reſtrictions on the liberty of the ſubject that had paſſed during the century; as by it all meetings of the people, either for the purpoſes of amuſement or redreſs, are rendered criminal, if it ſhall pleaſe any magiſtrate to conſider them as ſuch.

Theſe vindictive proceedings excited the indignation of the people, who perceived that the avenues of royal

royal favour were closed to all but a faction. A rebellion commenced in Scotland, where, to their other grievances, they joined that of the union, which they were taught to consider as an oppression. The Earl of Mar, assembling three hundred of his vassals in the Highlands, proclaimed the pretender at Castleton; and, setting up his standard at Braemar, assumed the title of *lieutenant-general of his majesty's forces*. To second these attempts, two vessels arrived from France with arms, ammunition, and a number of officers, together with assurances to the earl, that the pretender himself would shortly come over to head his own forces. In consequence of this promise, the earl soon found himself at the head of ten thousand men, well armed and provided. He secured the pass of Tay at Perth, where his head-quarters were established; and made himself master of the whole province of Fife, and all the sea-coast on that side of the frith of Forth. He marched from thence to Dumblain, as if he had intended to cross the Forth at Stirling-bridge: but there he was informed that the Duke of Argyle, who, on this occasion, was appointed commander in chief of all the forces in North Britain, was advancing against him from Stirling with all his own clans, assisted by some troops from Ireland. Upon this he thought proper at first to retreat; but, being soon after joined by some of the clans under the Earl of Seaforth, and others under General Gordon, an experienced officer, who had signalized himself in the Russian service, he resolved to face the enemy, and directed his march towards the south.

The Duke of Argyle, apprised of his intentions, and, at any rate, willing to prove his attachment to the present government, resolved to give him battle in the neighbourhood of Dumblain, though his forces did not amount to half the number of the enemy. In the morning, therefore, he drew up his army, which did not exceed three thousand five hundred men, in order

of battle; but he ſoon found himſelf greatly outflanked by the inſurgents. The duke, therefore, perceiving the earl make attempts to ſurround him, was obliged to alter his diſpoſition, which, on account of the ſcarcity of general officers, was not done ſo expeditiouſly as to be finiſhed before the rebels began the attack. The left wing of the duke's army received the centre of the enemy, and ſupported the firſt charge without ſhrinking. It ſeemed even for a while victorious, and the Earl of Clanronald was killed. But Glengary, who was ſecond in command, undertook to inſpire his intimidated forces with courage; and, waving his bonnet, cried out ſeveral times, Revenge! This animated the rebel-troops to ſuch a degree, that they followed him cloſe to the points of the enemy's bayonets, and got within their guard. A total rout began to enſue of that wing of the royal army; and General Wetham, their commander, flying full ſpeed to Stirling, gave out that the rebels were completely victorious. In the mean time, Argyle, who commanded in perſon on the right, attacked the left of the enemy; and drove them before him two miles, though they often faced about, and attempted to rally. Having thus entirely broken that wing, and driven them over the river Allan, he returned back to the field of battle; where, to his great mortification, he found the enemy victorious, and patiently waiting for the aſſault. However, inſtead of renewing the engagement, both armies continued to gaze at each other, neither caring to begin the attack. In the evening both parties drew off, and both claimed the victory. All the advantages of a victory, however, belonged to Argyle. He had interrupted the progreſs of the enemy; and, in their circumſtances, delay was defeat. In fact, the Earl of Mar ſoon found his loſſes and diſappointments increaſe. The caſtle of Inverneſs, of which he was in poſſeſſion, was delivered up by Lord Lovat, who had hitherto profeſſed to act

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in the intereſt of the pretender. The Marquis of Tullibardine forſook the earl, in order to defend his own part of the country; and many of the clans, ſeeing no likelihood of coming to a ſecond engagement, returned quietly home.

In the mean time, the rebellion was ſtill more unſucceſsfully proſecuted in England. From the time the pretender had undertaken this wild project in Paris, in which the Duke of Ormond and Lord Bolingbroke were engaged, Lord Stair, the Engliſh ambaſſador there, had penetrated all his deſigns, and ſent faithful accounts of all his meaſures and of all his adherents to the miniſtry at home. Upon the firſt rumour, therefore, of an inſurrection, they impriſoned ſeveral lords and gentlemen of whom they had a ſuſpicion. But theſe precautions were not able to ſtop the inſurrection in the weſtern countries, where it was already begun. All their preparations, however, were weak and ill conducted; every meaſure was betrayed to government as ſoon as projected, and many revolts were repreſſed in the very outſet. The univerſity of Oxford was treated with great ſeverity on this occaſion. Major-general Pepper, with a ſtrong detachment of dragoons, took poſſeſſion of the city at day-break, declaring, that he would inſtantly ſhoot any of the ſtudents who ſhould preſume to appear without the limits of their reſpective colleges.

The inſurrection in the northern counties came to greater maturity. In the month of October, 1715, the Earl of Derwentwater and Mr. Forſter took the field with a body of horſe, and, being joined by ſome gentlemen from the borders of Scotland, proclaimed the pretender. Their firſt attempt was to ſeize upon Newcaſtle, in which they had many friends; but, finding the gates ſhut againſt them, they retired to Hexham. To oppoſe theſe, General Carpenter was detached by government with a body of nine hundred men, and an engagement was hourly expected. The

rebels

rebels had two methods by which they might have conducted themselves with prudence and safety. The one was to march directly into the western parts of Scotland, and there join General Gordon, who commanded a strong body of Highlanders. The other was to cross the Tweed, and boldly attack General Carpenter, whose forces did not exceed their own. From the infatuation attendant on the measures of that party, neither of these counsels was pursued. They took the route to Jedburgh, where they hoped to leave Carpenter on one side, and penetrate into England by the western border. This was the effectual means to cut themselves off either from retreat or assistance. A party of Highlanders, who had joined them by this time, at first refused to accompany them in such a desperate incursion, and one half of them actually returned to their own country. At Brampton, Mr. Forster opened his commission of general, which had been sent him by the Earl of Mar, and there he proclaimed the pretender. They continued their march to Penrith, where the body of the militia that was assembled to oppose them fled at their appearance. From Penrith they proceeded, by the way of Kendal and Lancaster, to Preston, of which place they took possession without any resistance. But this was the last stage of their ill-advised excursion; for General Wills, at the head of seven thousand men, came up to attack them; and, from his activity there was no escaping. They now, therefore, began to raise barricadoes about the town, and to put the place in a posture of defence, repulsing the first attacks of the royal army with success. Next day, however, Wills was reinforced, and the town was invested on all sides. In this deplorable situation, Forster hoped to capitulate with the general; and accordingly sent Colonel Oxburgh, who had been taken prisoner, with a trumpeter to propose a capitulation. This, however, Wills refused; alleging, that he would not treat with rebels,

and

and that the only favour they had to expect, was to be ſpared from immediate ſlaughter. Theſe were hard terms, but no better could be obtained. They accordingly laid down their arms, and were put under a ſtrong guard. All the noblemen and leaders were ſecured, and a few of their officers tried for deſerting from the royal army, and ſhot by order of a court-martial. The common men were impriſoned at Cheſter and Liverpool; the noblemen and conſiderable officers were ſent to London, and led through the ſtreets, pinioned and bound together, to intimidate their party.

Though the ſchemes of the pretender appear to have been fooliſhly enough conducted in Britain, yet they were much more ſo in France. Bolingbroke had been made his ſecretary at Paris, and Ormond his prime miniſter. But theſe ſtateſmen quickly found that nothing could be done in favour of his cauſe. The King of France, who had ever eſpouſed the intereſt of the abdicated family, was juſt dead; and the Duke of Orleans, who ſucceeded in the government of the kingdom, was averſe to lending the pretender any aſſiſtance. His party, however, which was compoſed of the loweſt and the moſt ignorant exiles from the Britiſh dominions, affected the utmoſt confidence, and boaſted of a certainty of ſucceſs. The deepeſt ſecrets of his cabinet, and all his intended meaſures, were handed about in coffee-houſes by perſons of the loweſt rank, both in fortune and abilities. Subaltern officers reſolved to be his generals; and even proſtitutes were entruſted to manage his negociations. Little, therefore, could be expected from ſuch aſſiſtants and ſuch councils.

Though by this time the pretender might eaſily have ſeen that his affairs were deſperate; yet, with his uſual infatuation, he reſolved to hazard his perſon among his friends in Scotland, at a time when ſuch a meaſure was too late for ſucceſs. Paſſing, therefore, through France

France in disguise, and embarking in a small vessel at Dunkirk, he arrived, after a voyage of a few days, on the coasts of Scotland, with only six gentlemen in his train. He passed unknown through Aberdeen to Fetteresso, where he was met by the Earl of Mar, and about thirty noblemen and gentlemen of the first quality. There he was solemnly proclaimed; and his declaration, dated at Comerey, was printed and dispersed. He went from thence to Dundee, where he made a public entry; and in two days more he arrived at Scoon, where he intended to have the ceremony of his coronation performed. He ordered thanksgivings to be made for his safe arrival; he enjoined the ministers to pray for him in their churches; and, without the smallest share of power, went through the ceremonies of royalty, which drew an air of ridicule on all his conduct. Having thus spent some time in unimportant parade, he resolved to abandon the enterprise with the same levity with which it was undertaken. Having made a speech to his grand council, he informed them of his want of money, arms, and ammunition, for undertaking a campaign, and therefore deplored that he was obliged to leave them. He once more embarked on-board a small French ship that lay in the harbour of Montrose, accompanied with several lords, his adherents; and, in five days, arrived at Graveline.

General Gordon, who was left commander in chief of the forces, with the assistance of Earl Mareschal, proceeded at their head to Aberdeen, where he secured three vessels to sail northward, which took on-board such persons as intended to make their escape to the continent. He then continued his march through the Highlands, and quietly dismissed his forces as he went forward. This retreat was made with such expedition, that the Duke of Argyle, with all his activity, could never overtake his rear, which consisted of one thousand horse.

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The rebellion being ended, the law was put in force with all its terrors; and the prisons of London were crowded with those deluded persons, whom the ministry seemed resolved not to pardon. The commons, in their address to the crown, declared they would prosecute, in the most rigorous manner, the authors of the late rebellion; and their measures were as vindictive as their resolutions were speedy. The Earls of Derwentwater, Nithsdale, Carnwath, and Wintown, the Lords Widrington, Kenmuir, and Nairne, were impeached: and, upon pleading guilty, (except Lord Wintown, who stood trial, but was convicted,) they all received sentence of death. No intreaties could prevail upon the ministry to spare these unhappy men. The house of lords even presented an address to the throne for mercy, but without effect; the king only answered, that on this, as on all other occasions, he would act as he thought most consistent with the dignity of the crown and safety of the people. Orders were accordingly dispatched for executing the Lords Derwentwater, Nithsdale, and Kenmuir, immediately; the rest were respited to a farther time. Nithsdale, however, had the good fortune to escape in woman's clothes that were brought him by his mother the night before that intended for his execution. Derwentwater and Kenmuir were brought to the scaffold on Tower-hill at the time appointed. Both underwent their sentence with calm intrepidity, and seemingly less moved than those who beheld them.

An act of parliament was next made for trying the private prisoners in London, and not in Lancashire, where they were taken in arms. This was considered, by some of the best lawyers, as an alteration of the ancient constitution of the kingdom, by which it was supposed, that every prisoner should be tried in the place where the offence was committed, as a jury of neighbours would be best qualified to enter into the nature of the offence. In the beginning of April,

commiſſioners for trying the rebels met in the court of common pleas, when the bills were found againſt Mr. Forſter, Mr. Mackintoſh, and twenty of their confederates. Forſter eſcaped from Newgate, and reached the continent in ſafety; the reſt pleaded not guilty. Pitts, the keeper of Newgate, being ſuſpected of having connived at Forſter's eſcape, was tried for his life, but acquitted. After this, Mackintoſh, and ſeveral other priſoners, broke from Newgate, after having maſtered the keeper and turnkey, and diſarmed the centinel. The court proceeded to the trial of thoſe that remained; four or five were hanged, drawn, and quartered, at Tyburn. The judges appointed to try the rebels at Liverpool found a conſiderable number of them guilty of high treaſon. Two-and-twenty were executed at Manchester and Preſton; about one thouſand experienced the king's mercy, to be tranſported to North America. Of thoſe who ſuffered death for high treaſon about this time, the caſe of James Sheppard, a boy about eighteen years of age, is ſo very remarkable, that the reader will excuſe our introducing it in this place. This young man called at the houſe of Mr. Leak, a non-juror, on the 24th of January, 1717, and left a letter for him, to the following effect: "Sir, From the many diſcontents viſible throughout this kingdon, I infer, that if the prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be ſettled on his throne, without much loſs of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propoſe, that if any gentlemen will pay for my paſſage into Italy, and if our friends will intruſt one ſo young with letters of invitation to his majeſty, I will, on his arrival, ſmite the uſurper in his palace. In this confuſion, if ſufficient forces may be raiſed, his majeſty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himſelf till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it preſumptuous to hope that this may ſucceed, if we conſider how eaſy it is to cut the thread of human life; how

how great confusion the death of a prince occasions in the most peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how desirous of a change. But we will suppose the worst, that I am seized and by torture examined. Now, that this may endanger none but myself, it will be necessary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy, leave England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his majesty's abode; that I lodge with some whig; that you abscond, and that this be communicated to none. But, be the event as it will, I can expect nothing less than a most cruel death; which that I may the better support, it will be requisite that, from my arrival till the attempt, I every day receive the holy sacrament from one who shall be ignorant of the design. JAMES SHEPPARD.' On Mr. Leak's return home in the evening, he opened the letter, and, having read the contents to himself, he told his family that it was a wicked and villainous letter, and, reading it to them, he threw it into the fire and burnt it. Having done this, he went up into his study, and, reflecting on the matter, he suspected that some malicious person had sent it with a view to have his house afterwards searched, and, finding it there, to fix the odium upon him: whereupon he came to the resolution of acquainting Sir John Fryer with the affair, which he did the next morning, when Sir John told him he ought to have seized the person who brought the letter; to which he replied, that he remembered the person had promised to call again on the Monday following; which he did, and Mr. Leak asked him if his name was James Sheppard, and if he left a letter for him on the Friday before; to which he replied, Yes; whereupon Mr. Leak sent for a constable, and took him before Sir John Fryer, to whom he likewise owned that his name was James Sheppard, and that he had delivered such a letter. Then he asked him if he had a copy of that letter; to which he answered, he had no copy of it about him; but that if he had pen, ink, and paper, he could soon

write a copy of it, having it in his memory. Having ordered pen, ink, and paper, to be brought, the young man sat down in the room, and, having written the letter, brought it to him; but had not put his name to it. Sir John bade him put his name to it, which he did with a great deal of readiness, and afterwards read it with much presence of mind and calmness of temper, telling him he did believe that to be a true copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leak's house the Friday before, and that, if it differed at all, it was but in some very few words. This was produced in court on his trial. He was asked whom he meant by the *king;* he answered, the same person whom you call the pretender. And also whom he meant by the *usurper;* he replied, the same person whom you call King George; and all the while he was as much composed in his mind as possible. Upon this expression in the writing, "But we will suppose the worst, that I am by torture examined;" being asked whether he had so well weighed the matter as to undergo such torture for the sake of the pretender; he replied, he had well weighed the matter, and could undergo it. And being desired to read over the copy of the letter he had written before Sir John Fryer, and to consider it well, if it were right, that no false construction might be put upon any of his words; he read it to himself, and afterwards aloud, and owned it was his writing, and a true copy, as near as could be, of what he had written in the letter delivered to Mr. Leak's servant. He said, that he never had any acquaintance with Mr. Leak, nor knowledge of him, any other way than that he was a non-juror; that he had three years ago resolved upon the design to assassinate the king, and did determine to put it in execution when opportunity offered. —These depositions having been given by the evidence for the king, the prisoner was called upon by the court to make his defence; upon which he answered, that he acknowledged the truth of what had been

been depoſed againſt him; ſaying, that he meant it, that he intended it, and did not think there was any harm in it, or any guilt in the fact, if committed. He was preſently found guilty of high treaſon. And he being aſked, as is uſual before the receiving of ſentence, what he had to ſay why judgment ſhould not paſs upon him according to law, replied, "He could not hope for mercy from a prince he would not own." He was executed on the 17th of March, 1717.

The rebellion being thus extinguiſhed, the danger of the ſtate was made a pretence for continuing the parliament beyond the term fixed for its diſſolution. An act, therefore, was made by their own authority, repealing that by which they were to be diſſolved every third year, and the term of their duration was extended to ſeven years. This attempt in any delegated body of people to increaſe their own power by extending it, is contrary to the firſt principles of juſtice. If it was right to extend their duration to ſeven years, they might alſo perpetuate their authority; and thus cut off even the ſhadow of a nomination. The bill, however, paſſed both houſes, and all objections to it were conſidered as diſaffection. This parliament, which re-aſſembled on the 9th of January, 1716, granted very large ſupplies for the year, viz. ten thouſand ſeamen, at the rate of four pounds per month; the ſum of 233,849l. 19s. 6d. for the ordinary of the navy; and 23,623l. for the extraordinary repairs of the navy.

At this time ſome of the piratical ſtates in Barbary having broke the peace, Admiral Baker, who had the command of the Engliſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean, had orders to bring them to reaſon; which he eaſily accompliſhed; but the Sallee rovers ſtill did great miſchief, and that with impunity; for their ſhips were ſo ſmall, and drew ſo little water, that our men of war were ſeldom able to come up with them. At laſt, Captain Delgarno, one of the moſt active offi-

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cers in the navy, in his majesty's ship the Hind, of twenty guns only, came up with one of their best men of war of twenty-four guns, and, after an obstinate engagement of two hours and a half, obliged her to strike; but soon after she unfortunately sunk, and all her crew, except thirty-eight hands, perished: this, with the loss of another vessel of eight guns, and two more of sixteen guns each, which were forced on shore by his majesty's ship the Bridgewater, delivered, in a great measure, the English commerce in the Mediterranean from the interruptions given it by these pirates.

In the month of June, 1716, his majesty went over to Holland, escorted by an English squadron, and from thence continued his journey by land to Hanover, where the disturbances in the north made his presence at that time particularly necessary, and where he continued the rest of the year; at the close of which Admiral Aylmer sailed with a squadron to Holland to escort him home. The king, whilst he continued on the continent, negociated a treaty between the regent of France and the States of Holland; the pretender was no longer suffered to reside in France or Lorrain, but obliged to remove to the other side of the Alps. The treaty contained a mutual guarantee of all the places possessed by the contracting powers; of the protestant succession to the throne of Great Britain, and of the Duke of Orleans to the throne of France, in case the infant king should die without issue male; a defensive alliance was likewise entered into hereby, and the proportion of ships and forces, to be furnished by that power which should be disturbed at home or invaded from abroad, was specified.

The king was not so successful in adjusting the differences which had arisen between him and Charles, King of Sweden. Some time before, a treaty had been concluded between the Elector of Hanover and the

the King of Denmark, by which the duchies of Bremen and Verden, which the Danes had taken from the Swedes, were made over to the elector, for a valuable conſideration, and on condition that he ſhould immediately declare war againſt Sweden. The elector, a few weeks after his acceſſion to the Britiſh throne, took poſſeſſion of theſe duchies, and publiſhed a declaration of war in his German dominions. Overtures were made to the King of Sweden to put an end to this quarrel; but Charles made the reſtitution of Bremen and Verden the eſſential preliminary to a peace, and the other as reſolutely perſiſted in retaining them.

It has been already ſhewn, that this diſpute was very injurious to the trade from England to the Baltic; and perhaps it may be thought that this unneceſſary quarrel, which expoſed theſe kingdoms to imminent danger, whilſt they were no ways concerned in the diſpute, is one of the heavieſt imputations on the conduct of this intelligent prince.

Charles XII. determined to expreſs his reſentment againſt King George, by lending his aſſiſtance to promote the intereſt of the Chevalier de St. George, and, ſupported by ſo determined and indefatigable a prince, the cauſe of that fugitive was likely to prove more ſucceſsful than when backed by the feeble efforts of the court of Verſailles, who ſeemed to have regarded the Stuart line in no other manner than as they furniſhed the means for keeping up the party-diviſions and animoſities, which had become, as it were, conſtitutional in England, and never exerted themſelves ſtrenuouſly to reſtore that race to the throne of their anceſtors. When the king returned from the continent, he informed the council of the dangerous deſigns which were formed againſt the tranquillity of the nation, by the Swediſh monarch; in conſequence of which a warrant was iſſued for ſeizing the papers, as well as the perſon, of Count Gyllenbourg, the Swediſh miniſter at the

the court of London, which was accordingly done. This unprecedented ſtep ſpread a general alarm among the foreign miniſters, until they were aſſured by government, that the meaſure was taken on account of the count's being concerned in a plot againſt the ſtate, and that no act of his, as an ambaſſador, had drawn on him this treatment. The good underſtanding which now ſubſiſted between Great Britain and the United States procured Baron Goertz, the Swediſh reſident at the Hague, to be ſeized in like manner. Great diſcoveries were made by the papers and diſpatches which were found in the poſſeſſion of theſe miniſters; and all ſuch as related to the intended invaſion were made public, and ſerved fully to juſtify the means which were uſed in procuring them.

The parliament met on the 20th day of February, 1717, when this tranſaction was laid before the commons. The houſe ſhewed the warmeſt reſentment at the inſolence of Charles, and paſſed a bill to prohibit all commerce with Sweden. A grand fleet was formed, conſiſting of twenty-two ſhips of the line, beſides frigates, which was to proceed to the Baltic, under the command of Sir George Byng. This fleet ſailed on the 30th of March for Copenhagen.

Soon after the ſailing of Sir George Byng, the king ſent a meſſage to the houſe of commons, ſignifying a deſire that his parliament would enable him to ſecure his kingdoms againſt the danger which threatened them from Sweden, by granting him a ſupply. This produced a warm debate, but at length 250,000l. were voted, to enable his majeſty to concert ſuch meaſures with foreign princes and ſtates, as may prevent any charge and apprehenſion from the deſigns of Sweden for the future.

The Earl of Oxford had been near two years a priſoner in the Tower, and now took the favourable opportunity of this diſſention among his enemies, to petition for his trial. This was accordingly brought on

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in Weſtminſter-hall; Lord-chancellor Cowper being appointed high ſteward. The earl was brought from the Tower by water, and conducted to the bar on the 24th of June; when Mr. Hampden, one of the managers for the commons, recapitulated the charge againſt him in a long ſpeech; and Sir Joſeph Jekyll was proceeding to make good the firſt article, when the Lord Harcourt made a motion that the commons ſhould not be permitted to proceed againſt the earl, in making good the articles for high crimes and miſdemeanors, till judgment was firſt given upon the article of high-treaſon; and, after a long debate, this was carried in the affirmative. Hence aroſe a difference between the two houſes; the commons reſolving to proceed in their own way, and the lords as ſtrenuouſly adhering to theirs. At length, in the beginning of July, the lords proceeded to the trial; and three proclamations were made, for the Earl of Oxford's accuſers to appear and make good the articles of his impeachment; and, nobody appearing, all the peers who were preſent unanimouſly acquitted his lordſhip, not only of high treaſon, but of the charge of high crimes and miſdemeanors.

Sir George Byng arrived in the road of Copenhagen on the 11th day of April; the next day he had an audience of the king, and aſſiſted at ſeveral conferences, which were held in the ſucceeding week, in order to ſettle the operations by ſea, and the command of the confederate fleet, in caſe the ſeveral ſquadrons ſhould join. Sir George next detached five ſhips of the line to cruiſe in the Categat, between Gottenburgh and the Point of Schagen, to cover the trade from the Swediſh privateers. The Daniſh cruiſers being likewiſe employed for the ſame purpoſe, the paſſage was ſo effectually ſecured, that no ſhips could paſs out of that port. The arrival of this fleet in the Baltic put an effectual ſtop to the great projects formed by the Swedes, who thereupon laid aſide their de-

fign of embarking troops at Carlſcroon. Sir George appointed a detachment from his fleet to cruiſe off Gottenburg, the command of which was given to Captain Leſtock, of the Panther. On the 30th of April he took a Swediſh privateer dogger, of ſix guns and ſeventy-two men, commanded by St. Leger, who had before taken an Engliſh packet. The ſame day he retook a Dutch hoy, which the Swedes had made prize of the day before; and the next day he took the privateer that had captured her. Several other ſmall Swediſh privateers fell into their hands.

When the ſeaſon of the year began to advance, as no enemy appeared, Sir George Byng determined on returning home with the chief part of the fleet, and accordingly, on the 2d of November, he paſſed the Sound, with nine Engliſh men of war, three frigates, and three veſſels of ſmall burthen, leaving behind him ſix men of war to act in conjunction with the Daniſh fleet; on the 15th of the ſame month he arrived at the mouth of the Thames.

At the repreſentation of the French miniſter reſiding here, who had expreſs inſtructions from the Duke of Orleans for that purpoſe, Count Gyllenbourg was ſet at liberty, as alſo Baron Goertz, who had been confined in Holland.

The commerce of the Weſt-India iſlands was now greatly annoyed, by a number of daring and inſolent pirates who infeſted thoſe ſeas, and who, having poſſeſſed themſelves of ſome of the Bahama-iſlands, particularly Harbour iſland and Providence, ſallied forth from thence, and even carried their depredations northward along the coaſt of the American continent. On the 5th of September a proclamation was iſſued, offering a free pardon to all ſuch Weſt-Indian freebooters, as ſhould ſurrender themſelves within a twelvemonth, for all piracies which they ſhould have committed before the 5th day of January preceding. After the expiration of the time of ſurrender limited

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in this proclamation, a reward was offered to any of his majesty's officers, by sea or land, who should take a pirate, upon his being legally convicted: for a captain they were entitled to one hundred pounds; for any other officer, from a lieutenant down to a gunner, forty pounds; for an inferior officer thirty pounds; and, for every private man twenty pounds. Any pirate delivering up a captain or commodore, was entitled to two hundred pounds reward upon his conviction.

The prohibition laid on the trade to Sweden was severely felt by the merchants, who loudly complained of the measure pursued by administration against that kingdom. The Dutch, although leagued in the quarrel, had the address to throw off all the inconveniences resulting from it; their trade with Sweden was not only kept open, but greatly augmented; for they now became the carriers for Great Britain, who was obliged to receive all the products of that nation by the way of Holland, and on-board of Dutch shipping.

The parliament met on the 21st of November, and soon after voted ten thousand seamen, and 224,837l. for the ordinary of the navy. On the 17th of March, 1718, the king sent a message to the house, informing them that as he was then engaging in several negociations, of the utmost concern to the welfare of these kingdoms, and the tranquillity of Europe, and having lately received information from abroad, which makes him judge that it would give weight to his endeavours if a naval force be employed where it shall be necessary, he thinks fit to acquaint his commons therewith, not doubting, but that in case he should be obliged, at this critical juncture, to exceed the number of men granted this year, for the sea service, the house will, at their next meeting, provide for such excess. Hereupon an address was voted unanimously, promising to make good all such engagements as might be found necessary to be made.

A large fleet was put into commiſſion, and every thing indicated hoſtile intentions in the miniſtry. This drew from the Spaniſh ambaſſador a memorial, expreſſing the alarm which ſuch proceedings had given to the court of Madrid; in anſwer to which he was informed, that it was not the intention of his Britannic majeſty to conceal the deſtination of the armament which was then aſſembled. The king therefore declared, that he meant to ſend Sir George Byng therewith into the Mediterranean, in order to maintain the neutrality of Italy againſt any power that ſhould attempt to violate it.

Whilſt the miſunderſtanding between Great Britain and Sweden continued, the Czar of Muſcovy conceived a ſecret diſguſt at the conduct of King George. Wiſmar had been taken by the allies. This place Peter intended to beſtow on his niece, who had been lately married to the Duke of Mecklenburgh, Schwerin; he had therefore ſent a large body of troops to aſſiſt in reducing it, but it had ſurrendered before they arrived, and the Ruſſians were not admitted into the garriſon. What farther tended to diſpleaſe this monarch was, that, when Gyllenburg's letters were publiſhed in London, ſome paſſages ſeemed to favour the ſuppoſition of the czar being privy to the conſpiracy. His miniſter at the court of London preſented a long memorial, complaining that the king had cauſed to be printed the malicious inſinuations of his enemies, and denied his maſter having the leaſt concern in the deſign of the Swediſh king. It then proceeded to charge the court of England with having privately treated of a ſeparate peace with Charles of Sweden, and even with having promiſed to aſſiſt him againſt the czar, on condition that he would relinquiſh his pretenſions to Bremen and Verden. It concluded with expreſſing a hearty deſire to re eſtabliſh that good underſtanding which had long ſubſiſted between England and Ruſſia, and that the two empires might cordially unite in proſecuting

secuting the war against the common enemy. This memorial was replied to by the King of Great Britain, and the sentiments of the two monarchs remained the same. But Peter, who generally negociated in person, went to the court of Versailles, where he concluded a treaty of friendship with the Duke of Orleans, regent of France. He then proceeded to Amsterdam, and held private conferences with Goertz, the Swedish minister, who undertook to adjust all differences between the czar and his master within three months; and Peter engaged to suspend all operations against Sweden until that term should be expired. A congress was opened at Abo, between the Swedish and Russian ministers; but the conferences were afterwards removed to Aland. By this convention, the czar obliged himself to assist Charles in the conquest of Norway, and they promised to unite all their forces against the King of Great Britain, should he presume to interpose. Both were incensed against that prince; and one part of their design was to raise the pretender to the throne of England. Baron Goertz set out from Aland for Frederickstadt, in Norway, with the plan of peace; but, before he arrived, Charles was killed by a cannon-ball from the town, as he visited the trenches, on the 13th of November, 1718. The death of Charles was fortunate for England. Sweden was now obliged to submit: while the czar, the King of Denmark, and the Elector of Hanover, kept possession of what they had acquired in the course of the war. The king had not yet received the investiture of these duchies; and, until that should be procured, it was necessary to espouse with warmth the interests of the emperor. This was another source of misunderstanding between Great Britain and Spain.

The emperor had engaged in a war against the Porte as an ally of the Venetians, whom the Turks had attacked and driven from the Morea; and, in consequence, he sent Prince Eugene in May, 1717, at the head

head of a fine army, consisting of 100,000 men, to besiege Belgrade. The Turks foresaw his design, and reinforced the garrison to 30,000 men, and in other respects made it as they thought impregnable. Count Palfi was chosen to direct the siege, and his highness undertook to cover him against any attempts of the Turkish army, which lay in the neighbourhood, consisting of upwards of 150,000 men, commanded by the grand vizier. As Prince Eugene and Count Palfi were prosecuting this important undertaking, the grand vizier approached the prince's camp with his whole army, and, surrounding all the eminences, inclosed the imperial forces between himself and the town. The Turks, it was thought, would have no occasion to continue their fire, though it annoyed the prince greatly, and even obliged him to change his quarters, because a contagious disease was fiercely fighting for them against the imperialists. Prince Eugene, though he changed his quarters, kept only upon the defensive. At length, however, finding his own army diminished daily, and that it was impossible for him to receive any re-inforcement, he resolved to march out of his intrenchments and attack the enemy. There was another consideration which determined him thereto, which was this; he saw that for two days together the Turks had been making the necessary dispositions for a general assault. His highness saw there was no time to be lost, and the only way to prevent their designs from taking effect, was immediately to execute his own. And, as the army saw there was no way of getting out of their ugly situation but by fighting, they were glad to see it so determined, while they were yet enough to form an army; and they exhorted each other to behave bravely, because the loss of victory would be attended with consequences the most shameful, and the most fatal, viz. either of being made prisoners by infidels, or being put to the sword in their camp.

The whole army was under arms by one in the morning,

morning, (Auguſt 16,) at which time there was the deepeſt ſilence in both camps; the Turks were intent on their preparations for an attack, and had not the leaſt notion of being attacked themſelves, when the imperialiſts marched out of their entrenchments. The night, which was very clear, would have diſcovered their march, but about the time they began to move there fell a thick fog, which covered them like a cloud. The firſt line advanced, favoured by this accident, for two hours, ſlowly and without beat of drum, the right having orders to extend itſelf towards the bonnet before the imperial camp, that it might be ſuſtained by the artillery on that work; the left, where it was expected the ſtreſs of the battle would be, was ordered to extend itſelf into the plain; the foot advancing in the middle. The fog all this time increaſed, ſo that at laſt the ſoldiers could ſcarcely ſee a yard before them. What had hitherto been an advantage proved now a detriment to the imperialiſts; for the right wing, not being able to diſtinguiſh the bonnet before their own camp, fell in with the head of one of the Turkiſh trenches; both ſides were ſurpriſed: the Turks however made a briſk diſcharge, and then began ſcreaming and crying in ſuch a manner as alarmed indeed, but alſo confounded, their own army, which likewiſe fell to ſhouting and crying, ran in a hurry to their arms, and, in as great hurry advanced towards the imperial camp. The imperialiſts endeavoured to take their poſts, but were forced to grope and feel their way; and, as one error is generally followed by another, the infantry on the right, regulating their march by the cavalry, ſtrayed out of the line after them, and left a void in the centre capable of affording room to ſeveral battalions. But, in ſpite of all this, the engagement which began on the right ſoon became general: the left wing fought without ſeeing its enemies; they heard each other, and that was all; they fired and advanced; fired again, received the enemies

enemies fire, and advanced ſtill; this however gave the Germans great advantage, becauſe they were regular troops, and knew what they did. The Turks, on the other hand, were all in confuſion; ſuch as had courage knew not how to uſe it, and ſuch as had none knew not how to fly. When they came to fight hand to hand, ſome of the German corps acted very imprudently, from a falſe notion of bravery; they puſhed forward before they could be ſupported, and were conſequently enveloped and cut to pieces, without doing any real ſervice. However, on the whole, the imperialiſts every where gained ground; the infantry did wonders, they kept cloſe in their ranks, and overturned every thing that ſtood in their way. They never perceived their enemies, nor were perceived by them, till the muzzles of their muſkets were at the breaſts of the Turks, who were utterly unprepared; ſo that every diſcharge did prodigious execution, and, before the remaining Turks could fire, they had either bayonets at their breaſts, or were ſhot dead on the ſpot. No German ſoldier moved a ſtep before his companion in the centre, which ſecured them from the miſchief which had happened in the left, and which put it out of the power of the Turks to make even a tolerable reſiſtance. Multitudes were at work in the trenches when the fight began, and, as they endeavoured to get out the imperialiſts cut them down; in a word, the ſlaughter was great, and the confuſion ſtill greater.

The cavalry on the right, as well as on the left, were not ſo ſucceſsful: the ground before them was every where cut through with trenches; the fog made it ſo dark they could ſcarcely perceive them; and, while theſe obſtacles obliged them to advance but ſlowly, the Turkiſh artillery galled them very much. Theſe, however, were not the only misfortunes they met with; the Turks, puſhing out of their camp, ran by chance into the void ſpace in the centre, and thereby

cut

cut off the right wing from the reſt of the army, and fell on the flanks of both. About this time the fog ſuddenly cleared up, and the air became perfectly ſerene; this proved the ruin of the Turks: the ſecond line advanced upon thoſe who had puſhed through the firſt, routed them, drove them back to their intrenchments, and filled up the void at once.

The imperial army, perceiving the advantages they had gained in the dark, prepared now to advance forward, and ſtorm the enemy's works. The right wing poſſeſſed itſelf inſtantly of the batteries which had been playing upon them all the morning, and, without moving farther, turned the cannon on the infidels, and ſcoured the intrenchments, which immediately after they carried ſword in hand. The troops on the left endeavoured to do as much, but they were not able; the enemy were ſtrong on that ſide, and thoſe who fled from the right increaſed their numbers to ſuch a degree, that they charged the imperialiſts with prodigious weight. The Germans ſuſtained this ſhock, though with great loſs, without retreating a yard; and, notwithſtanding they were enfeebled, advanced on the Turks when they found the fury of their attack abate. They then puſhed them from trench to trench, till on a ſudden they found the battle was to begin again. Behind thoſe troops there was a battery of eighteen pieces of heavy cannon: the Germans cried out, that they would make themſelves maſters of it; but, advancing nearer, there appeared 20,000 foot and 10,000 ſpahis, in excellent order. The imperialiſts were conſtrained to halt, in order to form and to draw breath, the cannon playing upon them all the time. After ſome minutes they advanced again, the infantry with their muſkets on their ſhoulders, the horſe ſword in hand. The janizaries behaved at firſt very well, but, when they ſaw the Germans throw themſelves all at once on the battery, and creep through the embraſures, they were ſtruck

with a panic; the cavalry, in the mean time, trod down the ſpahis, and, by the weight of their horſes, carried all before them. This buſineſs was bloody, but it ended entirely in favour of the imperialiſts. The entrenchments were now forced, and the troops were much fatigued, yet there ſeemed to be but little done. The Turks rallied, and, to the number of 100,000, were forming in the plain, and there ſeemed to be no reaſon to queſtion that a new engagement would enſue. The imperialiſts prepared for it; the horſe and foot repaired to their poſts, and began to move in battalia towards the Turks, who remained firm and in good order in the plain. When they arrived within muſket-ſhot, the janizaries threw down their arms and ran away; the reſt of the troops ſoon followed their example, leaving their ſtandards, tents, artillery, and baggage, all behind them. The imperialiſts purſued them with great ſlaughter, and now thought the buſineſs over, when a body of ſpahis and Tartars took it in their heads to fall upon three regiments of horſe and dragoons, which put them into diſorder; they were preſently ſuſtained by the fire of the intrenchments; and two regiments of dragoons advancing to flank the Turks, they made a quick retreat. This happened about ten in the morning, and was the laſt ſcene of this important action; for the Turks, when once out of ſight of the field of battle, thought of nothing but getting away as faſt as they could. The Germans had now leiſure to ſurvey their camp, which looked like a large city well furniſhed with proviſions, and crowded with ammunition; all the tents were new, as were likewiſe the waggons and equipage, and even their artillery. As to the number of their dead, 3000 were ſlain in the purſuit, and upwards of 10,000 on the field of battle; about 5000 were wounded, and near the ſame number taken priſoners. The imperialiſts had near 3000 killed, and about 4500 wounded, many of whom died ſoon after the

he battle. The next day Prince Eugene ſummoned the baſhaw governor of Belgrade to ſurrender, threatening him with no quarter in caſe of refuſal, on which the garriſon mutinied, and obliged him to ſubmit, but much againſt his inclination, as the place was ſtill in a tolerable ſtate of defence, and, as he thought, tenable againſt all the efforts of the enemy. He obtained honourable terms: the garriſon was conducted to Nizza, and the prince entered the town after having beſieged it upwards of two months.

The pope conſidered this as a religious war againſt the infidels; and obtained repeated aſſurances from the King of Spain, that he would not undertake any thing againſt the emperor, while he was engaged in ſuch a laudable quarrel. Philip had even ſent a ſquadron of ſhips and gallies to the aſſiſtance of the Venetians. In the courſe of the year 1717, however, he equipped a ſtrong armament, the command of which he beſtowed on the Marquis de Lede, who ſailed from Barcelona in July, and, landing at Cagliari, in Sardinia, which belonged to the emperor, made a conqueſt of the whole iſland. At the ſame time the King of Spain endeavoured to juſtify theſe proceedings by a manifeſto, in which he alleged, that the archduke, contrary to the faith of treaties, encouraged and ſupported the rebellion of his ſubjects in Catalonia, by frequent ſuccours from Naples and other places; and that the great inquiſitor of Spain had been ſeized, though furniſhed with a paſſport from his holineſs. He promiſed, however, to proceed no farther, and ſuſpend all operations, that the powers of Europe might have time and opportunity to contrive expedients for reconciling all differences, and ſecuring the peace and balance of power in Italy: nay, he conſented that this important affair ſhould be left to the arbitration of King George and the States-General. Theſe powers undertook the office. Conferences were begun between the miniſters of the em-

peror, France, England, and Holland; and these produced, in the course of the following year, the famous quadruple alliance. In this treaty it was stipulated, that the emperor should renounce all pretensions to the crown of Spain, and exchange Sardinia for Sicily with the Duke of Savoy: that the succession to the duchies of Tuscany, Parma, and Placentia, which the Queen of Spain claimed by inheritance, as princess of the house of Farnese, should be settled on her eldest son, in case the present possessors should die without male issue. Philip, dissatisfied with this partition, continued to make formidable preparations by sea and land. These gave rise to the naval armament, which was fitted out in England.

Endeavours had been used, on the part of King George, to adjust the differences subsisting between the Emperor Charles and Philip of Spain; for which purpose Colonel Stanhope had been sent to Madrid with a plan of pacification, which being rejected by Philip, at the instance of his prime minister, Cardinal Alberoni, the King of Great Britain determined to support his mediation by force of arms. Accordingly, Sir George Byng sailed from Spithead on the 15th of June, 1718, with twenty ships of the line, two fire-ships, two bomb-vessels, and ample instructions how to act on all emergencies. He arrived off Cape St. Vincent on the 30th of the month, when he dispatched his secretary to Cadiz with a letter to Colonel Stanhope, the British minister at Madrid, desiring him to inform his most Catholic majesty of the admiral's arrival in those parts, and lay before him this article of his instructions: "You are to make instances with both parties to cease from using any further acts of hostility: but, in case the Spaniards do still insist, with their ships of war and forces, to attack the kingdom of Naples, or other the territories of the emperor in Italy, or to land in any part of Italy, which can only be with a design to invade the emperor's dominions, against

againſt whom only they have declared war by invading Sardinia; or if they ſhould endeavour to make themſelves maſters of the kingdom of Sicily, which muſt be with a deſign to invade the kingdom of Naples;—in this caſe, you are, with all your power, to hinder and obſtruct the ſame. If it ſhould ſo happen, that, at your arrival, with our fleet under your command, in the Mediterranean, the Spaniards ſhould already have landed any troops in Italy, in order to invade the emperor's territories, you ſhall endeavour amicably to diſſuade them from perſevering in ſuch an attempt, and offer them your aſſiſtance to help them to withdraw their troops, and put an end to all further acts of hoſtility. But, in caſe theſe your friendly endeavours ſhall prove ineffectual, you ſhall, by keeping company with, or intercepting, their ſhips or convoy, or, if it be neceſſary, by openly oppoſing them, defend the emperor's territories from any farther attempt."

When Cardinal Alberoni peruſed theſe inſtructions, he told Colonel Stanhope, with ſome warmth, that his maſter would run all hazards, and even ſuffer himſelf to be driven out of Spain, rather than recal his troops, or conſent to a ſuſpenſion of arms. He ſaid the Spaniards were not be frightened; and he was ſo well convinced that the fleet would do their duty, that in caſe of their being attacked by Admiral Byng, he ſhould be in no pain for the ſucceſs. Mr. Stanhope preſenting him with a liſt of the Britiſh ſquadron, he threw it upon the ground with great emotion. He promiſed, however, to lay the admiral's letters before the king, and to let the envoy know his majeſty's reſolution. Such an interpoſition could not but be very provoking to the Spaniſh miniſter, who had laid his account with the conqueſt of Sicily, and, for that purpoſe, prepared an armament which was altogether ſurpriſing, conſidering the late ſhattered condition of the Spaniſh affairs. He ſeems to have put too much confidence

confidence in the ſtrength of the Spaniſh fleet. In a few days he ſent back the admiral's letter to Mr. Stanhope, with a note under it, importing, that Byng might execute the orders he had received from the king his maſter.

Mr. Stanhope, ſeeing things tending to a rupture, gave private and early notice of his apprehenſions to the Engliſh conſuls and merchants ſettled in the Spaniſh ſea-ports, adviſing them to ſecure their effects againſt the dangers that might ariſe from a breach between the two crowns.

The admiral purſuing his voyage with unfavourable winds, it was the 8th of July before he made Cape Spartel, where the Superbe and Rupert, which had been ſeparated from the fleet, rejoined him, and brought advice of the vaſt preparations which were made by the Spaniards at Barcelona, and of their fleet having ſailed from thence the 18th of June to the eaſtward. Vice-admiral Cornwall joined the fleet with two ſhips, the Argyle and Charles galley, as it was paſſing by Gibraltar. The whole fleet anchored off Cape Malaga, to take in water, and then proceeded to Minorca. The admiral having relieved the garriſon at Port Mahon, ſailed for the bay of Naples, where he arrived on the 1ſt of Auguſt, and was received as a deliverer; and, indeed, nothing but this ſeaſonable appearance of a powerful fleet could have preſerved that kingdom to the houſe of Auſtria. Sicily, the citadel of Meſſina alone excepted, had already yielded to the Marquis de Lede, at the head of thirty thouſand Spaniſh troops; the inhabitants being ſtrongly attached to the ſovereignty of Spain. Sir George Byng received the moſt diſtinguiſhed marks of reſpect, whilſt he continued among the Neapolitans. Count Daun, the imperial viceroy of Naples, preſented Sir George with a ſword ſet with diamonds, and a very rich ſtaff of command: and, to the admiral's ſon, he made a preſent of a very fine ſword.

After

After the conference, the admiral was ſplendidly entertained at dinner, and then lodged in the palace of the Duke de Matelona, which had been magnificently fitted up for his reception. The viceroy likewiſe ſent refreſhments to the fleet, conſiſting of a hundred oxen, three hundred ſheep, ſix hundred pounds of ſugar, ſeventy hogſheads of wine, forty hogſheads of brandy, and ſeveral other things.

It was determined to ſail immediately to Sicily, in hopes of relieving the Piedmonteſe garriſon, in the citadel of Meſſina, before they ſhould ſurrender to the beſiegers. For this purpoſe the admiral took under his convoy a reinforcement of two thouſand German troops, under the command of General Wetzel. On the 9th of Auguſt he came in ſight of the faro of Meſſina, when he immediately diſpatched his own captain (Saunders) with a polite meſſage to the Marquis de Lede, propoſing a ceſſation of arms in Sicily for two months, that the powers of Europe might have time to concert meaſures for reſtoring a laſting peace; and declaring, that ſhould this propoſal be rejected, he would, in purſuance of his inſtructions, uſe all his force to prevent further attempts to diſturb the dominions his maſter had engaged to defend. The Spaniſh general anſwered, that he had no powers to treat, conſequently could not agree to an armiſtice, but ſhould obey his orders, which directed him to reduce Sicily for his maſter, the King of Spain. The Spaniſh fleet had ſailed from the harbour of Meſſina on the day before the Engliſh ſquadron appeared. Admiral Byng ſuppoſed they had retired to Malta, and directed his courſe towards Meſſina, in order to encourage and ſupport the garriſon in the citadel. But, in doubling the point of the faro, he deſcried two Spaniſh ſcouts, and learned from the people of a felucca from the Calabrian ſhore, that they had ſeen from the hills the Spaniſh fleet lying to in order of battle. The admiral immediately detached the German troops

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to Reggio, under convoy of two ſhips of war. Then he ſtood through the faro after the Spaniſh ſcouts that led him to their main fleet, which, before noon, he deſcried in line of battle, amounting to ſeven and twenty, large and ſmall, beſides two fire-ſhips, four bomb-veſſels, and ſeven galleys. They were commanded in chief by Don Antonio de Caſtanita, under whom were the four rear-admirals, Chacon, Mari, Guevara, and Cammock. At ſight of the Engliſh ſquadron, they ſtood away large; and Byng gave chace all the reſt of the day. In the morning, which was the 11th of Auguſt, 1718, N. S. the Rear-admiral de Mari, with ſix ſhips of war, the gallies, fire-ſhips, and bomb-ketches, ſeparated from the main fleet, and ſtood in for the Sicilian ſhore. The Engliſh admiral detached Captain Walton, of the Canterbury, with five more ſhips, in purſuit of them; and they were ſoon engaged. He himſelf continued to chace their main fleet; and, about ten o'clock, the battle began. The Orford attacked the Santa Roſa, of 64 guns, and took her. The St. Carlos, of 60 guns, ſtruck next, without much oppoſition, to the Kent, Captain Matthews. The Grafton, Captain Haddock, attacked warmly the Prince of Aſturias, of 70 guns, formerly called the Cumberland, Rear-admiral Chacon; but the Breda and Captain coming up, Captain Haddock left that ſhip, much ſhattered, for them to take, and ſtretched ahead after another ſhip of 60 guns, which had kept firing on his ſtarboard bow, during his engagement with the Prince of Aſturias. About one o'clock, the Kent, and ſoon after the Superbe, Captain Maſters, came up with, and engaged, the Spaniſh admiral, of 74 guns, who, with two ſhips more, fired on them, and made a running fight, till about three; and then the Kent, bearing down upon him, and under his ſtern, gave him her broadſide, and fell to leeward afterwards; the Superbe, putting forward to lay the admiral a-board,

a-board, fell on his weather quarter; upon which, the Spaniſh admiral ſhifting his helm, the Superbe ranged up under his lee-quarter, on which he ſtruck to her. At the ſame time, the Barfleur, in which was the admiral, being aſtern of the Spaniſh admiral, within ſhot, and inclining on his weather-quarter, Rear-admiral Guevara, and another ſixty-gun ſhip, which were to windward, bore down upon him, and gave him their broadſides, and then clapt upon a wind, ſtanding in for land. The admiral immediately tacked, and ſtood after them, until it was almoſt night; but it being little wind, and they hauling away out of his reach, he left purſuing them, and ſtood into the fleet, which he joined two hours after night. The Eſſex took the Juno, of 36 guns; the Montague and Rupert took the Volante, of 44 guns; and Rear-admiral Delaval, in the Dorſetſhire, took the Iſabella, of 60 guns. The action happened off Cape Peſſaro, at about ſix leagues diſtance from the the ſhore. The Engliſh received but little damage: the ſhip that ſuffered moſt was the Grafton, which being a good ſailor, her captain engaged ſeveral ſhips of the enemy, always purſuing the headmoſt, and leaving thoſe ſhips he had diſabled or damaged, to be taken by thoſe that followed him.

The admiral lay by ſome days at ſea, to refit the rigging of his ſhips, and to repair the damages the prizes had ſuſtained; and, on the 18th, received a letter from Captain Walton, of the Canterbury, who had been ſent in purſuit of the Spaniſh ſhips that eſcaped. This letter is one of the moſt laconic epiſtles extant, whilſt the tranſaction it ſpeaks of was of ſuch importance, that it would have furniſhed ſcope for a very elaborate deſcription. It is, therefore, juſtly conſidered as a great curioſity; and is as follows: "Sir, We have taken and deſtroyed all the Spaniſh ſhips and veſſels which were upon the coaſt, the number as per margin. I am, &c.

"G. WALTON."

By the account referred to, it appears, that Walton had taken four Spaniſh men of war; one of ſixty guns, commanded by Rear-admiral Mari; one of fifty-four, one of forty, and one of twenty-four, guns, with a bomb-veſſel, and a ſhip laden with arms; and burnt four men of war, one of fifty-four guns, two of forty, and one of thirty, guns, with a fire-ſhip and a bomb-veſſel.

The Spaniards, in this action, appeared diſtracted in their counſels, and, conſequently, acted in confuſion. Their admiral behaved with courage and activity, notwithſtanding which, they were all taken but Cammock, who eſcaped, with three ſhips of war and three frigates.

Had the Spaniards followed the advice of Rear-admiral Cammock, who was a native of Ireland, Sir George Byng would not have obtained ſuch an eaſy victory. That officer propoſed, that they ſhould remain at anchor in the road of Paradiſe, with their broadſides to the ſea; in which caſe the Engliſh admiral would have found it a very difficult taſk to attack them: for the coaſt is ſo bold, that the largeſt ſhips could ride with a cable aſhore; whereas farther out the currents are ſo various and rapid, that the Engliſh ſquadron could not have come to an anchor, or lain near them in order of battle: beſides, the Spaniards might have been reinforced from the army on ſhore, which would have raiſed batteries to annoy the aſſailants. Before King George had received an account of this engagement from the admiral, he wrote him a letter with his own hand, approving his conduct. When Sir George's eldeſt ſon arrived in England, with a circumſtantial account of the action, he was graciouſly received, and ſent back with plenipotentiary powers to his father, that he might negociate with the ſeveral princes and ſtates of Italy, as he ſhould ſee occaſion. The ſon likewiſe carried the king's royal grant to the officers and

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ſeamen, of all the prizes they had taken from the Spaniards. Notwithſtanding this victory, the Spaniſh army carried on the ſiege of the citadel of Meſſina with ſuch vigour, that the governor ſurrendered the place by capitulation on the 29th of September.

A treaty was now concluded, at Vienna, between the Emperor and the Duke of Savoy. They agreed to form an army for the conqueſt of Sardinia, in behalf of the duke; and, in the mean time, this prince engaged to evacuate Sicily: but, until his troops could be conveyed from that iſland, he conſented that they ſhould co-operate with the Germans againſt the common enemy. Admiral Byng continued to aſſiſt the imperialiſts in Sicily, during the beſt part of the winter, by ſcouring the ſeas of the Spaniards, and keeping the communication open between the German forces and the Calabrian ſhore, from whence they were ſupplied with proviſions. He acted in this ſervice with equal conduct, reſolution, and activity. He conferred with the viceroy of Naples, and the other imperial generals, about the operations of the enſuing campaign; and Count Hamilton was diſpatched to Vienna, to lay before the emperor the reſult of their deliberations: then the admiral ſet ſail for Mahon, where his ſhips might be refitted, and put in a condition to take the ſea in the ſpring.

This bold ſtep in deſtroying the Spaniſh fleet, without any previous declaration of war, aſtoniſhed all Europe. The court of Spain repreſented the conduct of Great Britain as inconſiſtent with thoſe principles of good faith, for the obſervance of which ſhe had hitherto been celebrated. The Marquis de Monteleone wrote a letter to Mr. Secretary Craggs, in which he remonſtrated againſt this conduct, as a violation of the laws of nations. Cardinal Alberoni, who had before expreſſed himſelf to the Engliſh ambaſſador as ready to reſt the deciſion of the conteſt upon the force of arms, ſhould the two fleets happen

to meet, now wrote a letter to the Engliſh ſecretary, charging the adminiſtration to which he belonged with having acted a baſe and unwarrantable part. He ſaid the plea of maintaining the neutrality of Italy was a weak pretence, ſince it was notorious, that ſuch neutrality had long been at an end; and that the princes guarantees of the treaty of Utrecht were entirely diſcharged from their engagements, not only by the ſcandalous infringements committed by the Auſtrians in the evacuation of Catalonia and Majorca, but alſo becauſe the guarantee was no longer binding than until a peace was concluded with France. He taxed the Britiſh miniſtry with having revived and ſupported this neutrality, not by an amicable mediation, but by open violence, and artfully abuſing the confidence and ſecurity of the Spaniards. This was the language of diſappointed ambition; and, in ſome eſſential inſtances, not only unſupported by facts, but repugnant to them.

The parliament meeting on the 11th of November, the king, in his ſpeech, declared that the court of Spain had rejected all his amicable propoſals, and broke through their moſt ſolemn engagements for the ſecurity of the Britiſh commerce. To vindicate, therefore, the faith of his former treaties, as well as to maintain thoſe he had lately made, and to protect and defend the trade of his ſubjects, which had, in every branch, been violently and unjuſtly oppreſſed, it became neceſſary for his naval forces to check their progreſs: that, notwithſtanding the ſucceſs of his arms, that court had lately given orders at all the ports of Spain, and of the Weſt-Indies, to fit out privateers againſt the Engliſh. He ſaid, he was perſuaded, that a Britiſh parliament would enable him to reſent ſuch treatment: and he aſſured them, that the regent of France was ready to concur with him in the moſt vigorous meaſures. The commons voted 13,500 ſailors; and 12,435 men, for the land ſervice. The

whole

whole eſtimate amounted to 2,257,581l. 19s. The money was raiſed by a land-tax, malt-tax, and lottery.

The king, on the 17th of December, ſent a meſſage to the commons, importing, that all his endeavours to procure redreſs for the injuries done to his ſubjects by the King of Spain, having proved ineffectual, he had found it neceſſary to declare war againſt that monarch. The declaration of war againſt Spain was publiſhed with the uſual ſolemnities; but this war was not a favourite of the people, and, therefore, did not produce thoſe acclamations that were uſual on ſuch occaſions.

Here it will be neceſſary to take notice of the reduction of the American buccaneers, in conſequence of the meaſures which had been taken for that purpoſe, (ſee p. 26.) Captain Woodes Rogers, who had made a ſucceſsful voyage round the world in a Briſtol privateer, and with another under his command, was now appointed governor of the Bahama iſlands. When he arrived at Providence, which was appointed to be the ſeat of his government, he was cordially received by the people, and many pirates, who harboured there, voluntarily ſubmitted. He then proceeded to form a council, and eſtabliſh a regular ſyſtem of civil government, which, at length, brought theſe rovers to ſubjection. Two of their veſſels being taken, after the time of ſurrender limited in the proclamation expired, and the captains and their crews being hanged, theſe neſts of cruel villains and lawleſs freebooters were deſtroyed totally, after having for many years ſpread terror through the Weſt-Indies, and even the northern colonies. The cruelties they exerciſed on thoſe who were ſo unhappy as to fall into their hands, exceeded even thoſe committed by the African corſairs, and rendered ſlavery among the Turks preferable to their yoke.

Soon after the declaration of war againſt Spain, the Earl of Stair, who ſtill continued to reſide at Paris, as the Engliſh miniſter, tranſmitted to his court intelligence

ligence of the designs which Cardinal Alberoni, assisted by the Duke of Ormond, had formed against England. This was no other than an attempt to set the Chevalier de St. George on the throne. Administration was not inactive upon the receipt of this important advice. A fleet was immediately ordered to be got ready, and 5000l. reward was offered by proclamation to any one who should apprehend James Butler, late Duke of Ormond. On the 5th of April, 1719, Sir John Norris sailed from Spithead, with nine men of war, directing his course to the westward; and he was soon after reinforced by a squadron under the Earl of Berkley. Troops were likewise stationed in the most convenient places for the defence of the kingdom, should it be attacked; and large bodies of foreign forces came over from Holland and Switzerland. These judicious precautions were, however, rendered unnecessary, for, soon after the Spanish armament had sailed from Cadiz, as if a fatality hung over all attempts which that kingdom should make to annoy England, a furious tempest overtook them, on the 28th of February, when they were about fifty leagues to the westward of Cape Finisterre, which continued forty-eight hours, and entirely dispersed the whole fleet, consisting of five men of war, and forty transports. The Duke of Ormond was on-board, with five thousand land forces; besides which, were embarked a great quantity of ammunition, spare arms, and one million pieces of eight. Such ships as returned to the ports of Spain were in a very shattered condition; the number that were lost was never known; but a small part of this force, being three frigates and five transports, reached Scotland, and landed the Earls of Marshall and Seaford, and the Marquis of Tullibadine, with about four hundred men, chiefly Spaniards, in the shire of Ross, where they were joined by the disaffected Scots, who presently amounted to about one thousand five hundred men.

men. Ormond, however, who was to have headed these insurgents, did not arrive. Major-general Wightman defeated them at Gleenshill; after which, the Spaniards, amounting to about three hundred, surrendered at discretion, while the three noblemen, just named, escaped to the Western Isles, from whence they soon after found means to return to the continent. Before this entire dispersion, they had met with a check at Donan castle, which was taken by his majesty's ships the Worcester, Enterprize, and Flamborough; the castle being blown up, and the greatest part of their ammunition taken or destroyed.

The regent of France, who was strongly attached to the interest of the King of Great Britain, declared war against his cousin the King of Spain. Many of the first nobility of France were much offended at this step; and, when it was determined to send an army into Spain, Marshal Villars refused to act against a grandson of his former master. The Duke of Berwick, now invested with a marshal's staff, was not so scrupulous; and, though he had been the chief means of placing Philip upon his throne, by the decisive victory which he gained at Almanza, yet he accepted the command of an army which was appointed to invade his territories, in order to compel him to accede to such conditions as were thought requisite to establish the general tranquillity of Europe.

In the month of April, a detachment, commanded by the Marquis de Cilly, penetrated to Port Passage, where were six Spanish men of war upon the stocks, almost finished; these he burnt, together with timber, masts, and naval stores, to the value of half a million sterling; and, shortly after, Berwick laid siege to Fontarabia, which he made himself master of.

Meanwhile, Sir George Byng, who had wintered in the Mediterranean, early in the spring proceeded from Port Mahon to Naples, where he concerted measures for the reduction of Sicily. As soon as the imperial

imperial army deſtined for that expedition was ready, he received it on-board his fleet, and landed the troops on the iſland. His ſhips, by ſupplying the army with neceſſaries, and attentively watching the motions of the enemy, greatly accelerated its reduction. On the 8th of Auguſt, the city of Meſſina ſurrendered to the imperialiſts. The admiral then landed a body of Engliſh grenadiers, who very quickly made themſelves maſters of the Tower of Faro, and thereby gained a free paſſage for the fleet to come within reach of ſome Spaniſh men of war that lay in the mole, protected by the guns of the citadel. As the ſurrender of this fortreſs was ſoon expected, the different commanders who carried on the attack, began to anticipate the poſſeſſion of the Spaniſh men of war, all of which muſt then be taken. Signior Scampi, general of the King of Sardinia's gallies, laid claim to two of them, one of ſixty, the other ſixty-four guns: he founded his pretenſions on their having originally belonged to the king his maſter; for the Spaniards had ſeized them in the port of Palermo. Count de Mercy, who commanded for the emperor, inſiſted, that when the fort ſhould be taken, that and the port would belong to the emperor, and, therefore, according to the eſtabliſhed laws of nations, the ſhips became his. Our Engliſh admiral ſupported his pretenſions to theſe prizes by aſſerting, that the taking them was entirely owing to the ſhips he conſtantly ſtationed to watch their motions, and, if he drew his cruiſers off, the Spaniſh ſhips would even then be able to leave the port and get to ſea, where he ſhould have a chance of meeting with and taking them. Such were the pleas urged by the three commanders, which, however, was adjuſted without any diſagreeable conſequences ariſing; for Sir George Byng reflecting, that poſſibly the garriſon might capitulate for the ſafe return of thoſe ſhips into Spain, which he was determined never to ſuffer, that, on the other hand, the

right

right of poſſeſſion might breed an inconvenient diſpute among the princes concerned; and, if it ſhould prove that they did not belong to England, it were better they belonged to nobody; he propoſed to Count de Mercy to erect a battery, and deſtroy them as they lay in the baſon; who urged, that he had no orders concerning thoſe ſhips, and muſt write to Vienna for inſtructions about it. The admiral replied, with ſome warmth, that he could not want a power to deſtroy every thing that belonged to the enemy, and inſiſted on it with ſo much firmneſs, that the general being concerned in intereſt, not to carry matters to a diſagreement, cauſed a battery to be erected, notwithſtanding the proteſtations of Scampi, which, in a little time, ſunk and deſtroyed them, and completed the ruin of the naval power of Spain.

Still, however, the citadel of Meſſina held out, the beſiegers being in want both of artillery and ammunition. To ſupply theſe, the admiral ſent aſhore the cannon which were on-board the Engliſh prizes, and procured, upon his own credit, powder and other ammunition from Genoa. No ſooner were the allies put into poſſeſſion of the citadel by theſe means, than Sir George Byng tranſported a large body of troops to Tropani, another part of the iſland, by which the Spaniards were ſo much annoyed, that the Marquis de Lede, their general, propoſed to evacuate the iſland. Byng rejected theſe conditions, which the other commanders were diſpoſed to grant. He inſiſted that the Spaniſh troops ſhould not be permitted to quit Sicily and return to Spain, till a general peace was concluded, or until they had engaged to ſerve no more during the continuance of the war. Hoſtilities were therefore continued until the admiral received advice from the Earl of Stair, at Paris, that the Spaniſh ambaſſador at the Hague had ſigned the quadruple alliance. Commiſſioners were ſometime after appointed on both ſides, and a convention was ſigned:

by it, the Germans were put into poſſeſſion of Palermo; and the Spaniſh army marched to Termini, from whence they were tranſported to Barcelona.

On the 10th of October, the Sheerneſs, commanded by Captain Delgarno, chaſed and took a Spaniſh packet boat between Lagos and Cape St. Mary, named the St. Francis, of eighteen guns, ſix pattereroes, one hundred and twenty-five men, and thirty paſſengers, bound to Cadiz from St. Domingo. About the ſame time, Captain Saunders, in the Dreadnought, was ſent by the admiral againſt the Malteſe, who had not only aſſiſted the Spaniards, but had taken many Engliſh merchantmen. The captain was directed to demand ſatisfaction for the injuries and inſults which had been committed. After ſome conferences had been held with the deputies, which arrived on-board the ſhip from the grand maſter and council of Malta, full reparation was obtained for all the damages done by their ſubjects to thoſe of Great Britain.

Sir George Byng, having ſeen the convention for the evacuation of Sicily and Sardinia duly executed, and having ordered his whole ſquadron to return to England, four ſhips only excepted, ſet out himſelf from Genoa by land, and arrived at Hanover on the 21ſt of Auguſt, 1720. His majeſty, who was there at that time, received him verygraciouſly, telling him, he had found out the ſecret of obliging his enemies, as well as his friends; for the court of Spain had mentioned him in the moſt honourable terms, with reſpect to his candid and friendly deportment, in providing tranſports and other neceſſaries for the embarkation of the troops, and in protecting them from oppreſſion. He was appointed treaſurer of the navy, and rear-admiral of Great Britain. In a little time the king ennobled him by the title of Viſcount Torrington; he was declared a privy counſellor, and afterwards made a knight of the bath, at the revival of that order.

Whilſt

Whilſt theſe tranſactions paſſed in the Mediterranean, the Engliſh miniſtry, in order to retaliate the invaſion of England, which had been projected by Spain, determined to make a deſcent on the Spaniſh coaſt; and Corunna, or the Groyne, was the place deſtined to be attacked. Four thouſand men, commanded by Lord Cobham, were embarked at the Iſle of Wight, and ſailed on the 21ſt of September, under convoy of five men of war, commanded by Vice-admiral Mighels. They arrived on the coaſt of Galicia, where they cruiſed three days, expecting to be joined by two more ſhips of war, under Captain Johnſon: but he not appearing, and the tranſports being particularly expoſed to danger by lying on the coaſt, at that ſeaſon of the year, the commanders having a favourable wind to carry them to Vigo, determined to bend their courſe thither, inſtead of to Corunna.

On the 10th of October, they entered that harbour; and the grenadiers being immediately landed about three miles from the town, drew up on the beach: ſome peaſants fired from the mountains, at a great diſtance, but without any effect. Lord Cobham went aſhore with the grenadiers, and the regiments followed as faſt as the boats could land them. That night, and the following day and night, the troops lay upon their arms. In the mean while proviſions for four days were brought aſhore; and guards were poſted in ſeveral avenues, to the diſtance of above a mile up the country.

Two days after, his lordſhip moved with the forces nearer the town, and encamped at a ſtrong poſt, with the left to the ſea, near the village of Boas, and the right extending towards the mountains. This motion of the army, and ſome parties that were ordered to view the town and citadel, gave the enemy ſome apprehenſions that preparations were making to attack them. Whereupon, they ſet fire to the carriages of

the cannon of the town, ſpiked the guns, and, by all their motions, ſeemed to indicate their intention of abandoning the town to the care of the magiſtrates and inhabitants, and to retire with the regular troops into the citadel. Lord Cobham then ſent to ſummon the town to ſurrender, which the magiſtrates agreed to; and the ſame night his lordſhip ordered Brigadier Honywood, with eight hundred men, to take poſt in the town, and fort St. Sebaſtian, which the enemy had alſo abandoned.

On the 14th a bomb-veſſel began to bombard the citadel; but with little execution, on account of the great diſtance. That evening, the large mortars, and the cohorn-mortars, were landed at the town; between forty and fifty of them, great and ſmall, placed on a battery, under covert of fort St. Sebaſtian, began in the night to play upon the citadel, and continued it four days with great ſucceſs. On the fourth day his lordſhip ordered the battering cannon to be landed; and, with ſome others found in the town, to be placed on the battery of fort St. Sebaſtian. At the ſame time, his lordſhip ſummoned the governor to ſurrender, acquainting him, that, if he held out till the battery of cannon was ready, no quarter ſhould be given. Colonel Ligonier was ſent with this meſſage, but found the governor Don Joſeph de los Cereos had the day before been carried out of the caſtle, wounded; the lieutenant-colonel, who commanded in his abſence, deſired that hoſtilities might ceaſe, whilſt he ſent to the Marquis de Riſburg, at Tuy, for his directions; but this being refuſed, the citadel ſurrendered without any farther delay, and obtained an honourable capitulation. The number of men that marched out of the garriſon was four hundred and ſixty-nine, officers included, three hundred had been killed or wounded during the ſiege, whilſt, on the ſide of the Engliſh, only two officers and four private men were killed. In the town, were ſixty pieces

pieces of large iron cannon, which the Spaniards had ſpiked and damaged, as much as their time would give them leave; and in the citadel were forty-three pieces, of which fifteen were braſs, and two large mortars; beſides above two thouſand barrels of powder, and ſeveral cheſts of arms, amounting to about eight thouſand muſquets: all theſe ſtores, and braſs ordnance, were lodged there from on-board the ſhips that were to have viſited Great Britain the preceding ſpring; and the very troops that gave up Vigo, were alſo of that expedition. Seven ſhips were ſeized in the harbour, three of which were fitting up for privateers, one to carry twenty-four guns; the reſt were trading veſſels.

Vigo being thus taken, Lord Cobham ordered Major-general Wade to embark with a thouſand men on-board four tranſports, and to ſail to the upper end of the bay of Vigo; which he accordingly did, on the 25th, and having landed his men, marched to Pont-a-Vedra, which place ſurrendered without oppoſition, the magiſtrates of the town meeting them with the keys. In the place were taken, two forty-eight pounders, four twenty-four pounders, ſix eight pounders, and four mortars, all braſs; beſides ſeventy pieces of iron cannon, two thouſand ſmall arms, ſome bombs, &c. all which, except the twenty-four pounders, were embarked, and Major-general Wade returned with his booty and troops to Vigo, on the 4th of November. And the next day, Lord Cobham, finding it would be impoſſible for him to maintain his ground any longer in Spain, ordered the forces to be embarked, as likewiſe the cannon, &c. which being done by the 17th, he ſailed that day for England, where he arrived on the 22d of November; having loſt in the expedition, about three hundred of his men, who were either killed, died, or deſerted.

In the mean time, Captain Johnſon, with his two ſhips, not having been able to join Admiral Mighels, proceeded

proceeded to the port of Ribadeo, to the eaſtward of Cape Ortegas, where he deſtroyed two Spaniſh ſhips; ſo that the naval power of Spain was totally ruined. An expedition againſt Peru, in South America, had likewiſe been projected; but the earneſtneſs with which the court of Madrid ſought a peace cauſed this remote attack to be laid aſide.

Let us now turn to the affairs of the north, where the ſyſtem of politics had undergone a thorough change, after the death of Charles king of Sweden. Ulrica, the new queen, concluded a peace with King George early in the ſummer, by which the duchies of Bremen and Verden, with all their dependencies, were yielded to the electoral houſe of Brunſwick, for which inveſtiture the king agreed to pay a million of rix-dollars. The czar Peter, however, refuſed to conclude a peace with Sweden, being determined to attempt farther conqueſts. In the beginning of September, Sir John Norris was ſent with a ſquadron into the Baltic, with orders to join the Swediſh fleet. He arrived at Dahlen, near Stockholm, on the 6th of the ſame month. This junction of the Engliſh and Swediſh fleets broke all the meaſures of the Ruſſian Emperor. His fleet had landed fifteen thouſand troops at the Scheuron or Batſes of Sweden, where they committed ſavage outrages, but, when Sir John Norris arrived in thoſe parts, the czar, dreading the fate of the Spaniſh navy, re-embarked his forces, and ſecured his fleet in the harbour of Revel. The conduct of Sir John Norris in this expedition was highly meritorious; by his prudence and activity, the moſt eſſential ſervices were rendered his country, and the balance of power in the north was preſerved without a blow being ſtruck. This admiral returned with his fleet to England about the latter end of November.

Soon after the king's return to England, the parliament aſſembled. The houſe of commons was far from

from being unanimous in their opinion concerning the meaſures adopted by the miniſtry, but a deciſive majority appeared in their favour. On the 2d of December, 13,500 ſeamen were voted for the ſervice of the navy, during the year 1720: 217,918l. 10s. 8d. was given for the ordinary of the navy, and 79,723l. for the extraordinary repairs. Soon after, a demand was made for a conſiderable ſum expended in the neceſſary ſervice of the laſt year, beyond what was provided in parliament, and after great debates a vote was obtained on the 15th of January, 1720, for 377,561l. in diſcharge of thoſe expences. The parliament then turned to an object of the greateſt importance, namely, that of ſecuring the dependency of the Iriſh parliament upon that of Great Britain. Maurice Anneſley had appealed to the houſe of peers in England, from a decree of the houſe of peers of Ireland, which was reverſed. The Britiſh peers ordered the barons of the exchequer in Ireland to put Mr. Anneſley in poſſeſſion of the lands he had loſt by the decree in that kingdom. The barons obeyed his order, and the Iriſh houſe of peers paſſed a vote againſt them, as having attempted to diminiſh the juſt privileges of the parliament of Ireland; and, at the ſame time, ordered the barons to be taken under the cuſtody of the black rod. On the other hand, the houſe of lords in England reſolved, that the barons of the exchequer in Ireland had acted with courage and fidelity; and addreſſed the king to ſignify his approbation of their conduct, by ſome marks of his favour. To complete their intention, a bill was prepared, by which the Iriſh houſe of lords was deprived of all rights of final juriſdiction. This was oppoſed in both houſes. In the lower houſe ſome members aſſerted, that it would only increaſe the power of the Engliſh peers, who already had too much. Mr. Hungerford demonſtrated that the Iriſh lords had always exerted their power of finally deciding

deciding cauſes. The Duke of Leeds produced fifteen reaſons againſt the bill; but, notwithſtanding oll oppoſition, it was carried by a great majority, and received the royal aſſent.

In the beginning of the month of February, the King of Spain acceded to the quadruple alliance. Philip, attacked on all ſides, and his kingdom exhauſted, now ſaw the miſchiefs reſulting from the ambitious ſchemes which Alberoni had cauſed him to adopt. That churchman and miniſter was ſo obnoxious to the emperor, the king of England, and the regent of France, that, when overtures towards a peace were made by Spain, the confederates refuſed to treat whilſt the cardinal remained in office. His catholic majeſty, therefore, was compelled to deprive him of all his employments, and, farther, to gratify the allies, ordered him to quit the kingdom in three weeks.

The king, in his ſpeech, having recommended to the commons the conſideration of proper means for leſſening the national debt, this ſerved as a prelude to the famous South-Sea act, which became productive of ſo much miſchief and infatuation through that ſpirit of avarice and chicanery which had infeſted almoſt all ranks of people. The preceding year, John Law, a Scotchman, had found means to engage the French miniſtry to patronize a ſcheme for erecting a company in France, under the name of the Miſſiſſippi Company; which at firſt promiſed the deluded people immenſe wealth, but too ſoon appeared an impoſture, and left a great part of that nation in ruin and diſtreſs. The people of England were now deceived by juſt ſuch another project, which is remembered by all, under the name of the South-Sea ſcheme, and to this day felt by thouſands. The riſe of this company has been already traced, and the ſtipulations, reſpecting its commerce, when the peace of Utrecht took place, have been ſpoken of towards the end of the preceding volume. We are now to

view

view it in its inflated ſtate, when the nation became duped by the imaginary conſequence of this commercial body, and fell a prey to the deſigns of a junto of knaves.

Sir John Blount, who had been bred a ſcrivener, and was poſſeſſed of all the cunning and plauſibility requiſite for ſuch an undertaking, propoſed to the miniſtry, in the name of the South-Sea company, to leſſen the national debt, by permitting that company to buy up all the debts of the different companies, and thus to become the ſole creditor of the ſtate. The terms offered the government were extremely advantageous. The South-Sea company was to redeem the debts of the nation out of the hands of the private proprietors, who were creditors to the government, upon whatever terms they could agree; and, for the intereſt of this money, which they had thus redeemed, and taken into their own hands, they would be contented to be allowed for ſix years five per cent. and then the intereſt ſhould be reduced to four per cent. and be redeemable by parliament. For theſe purpoſes a bill paſſed both houſes; and, as the directors of the South-Sea company could not, of themſelves alone, be ſuppoſed to be poſſeſſed of money ſufficient to buy up theſe debts of the government, they were impowered to raiſe it by opening a ſubſcription, and granting annuities to ſuch proprietors as ſhould think proper to exchange their creditors; namely, the crown for the South-Sea company, with the advantages that might be made by their commerce. The ſuperior benefits with which theſe proprietors were flattered, by thus exchanging their property in the government funds for South-Sea company ſtock, were a chimerical proſpect of having their money turned to great profit, by a commerce to the ſouthern parts of America, where it was reported, that the Engliſh were to have ſome new ſettlements granted them by the King of Spain. The directors' books, therefore, were no

ſooner opened for the firſt ſubſcription, but crowds came to make the exchange; the deluſion ſpread; ſubſcriptions, in a few days, ſold for double the price they had been bought at. The ſcheme ſucceeded, and the whole nation was infected with a ſpirit of avaricious enterprize. The ſtock increaſed to a ſurpriſing degree; the fame and credit of the leading directors and managers roſe in proportion. Addreſſes were made to them from perſons of high rank, and, in teſtimony of miniſterial approbation, ſeveral of the directors had the hereditary honour of baronet conferred on them. Yet, very ſoon after, ſuch ſudden fluctuations in their ſtock happened, ſometimes even in the ſpace of a few hours, as might have given clear indications of its precarious value, notwithſtanding the various arts daily practiſed to keep it conſtantly riſing. For though, on the 2d of June, 1720, it got up to 890 per cent. yet that vaſt price bringing many ſellers to 'Change Alley, the day following it fell to 640, and yet the ſame evening roſe again to 770. On the 6th it was at 820, but, by the 14th, fell to 710. Many were obliged to ſell out their ſtock, to enable them to make their ſecond payment on the ſubſcription; and ſome began to have their eyes opened by the judicious calculations of Archibald Hutchinſon, Eſq. and others. Theſe alarming circumſtances obliged the managers to lend great ſums of money on South-Sea ſtock, at four hundred per cent. which loan anſwered a double purpoſe, by preventing the ſtock, which was thus pawned, being brought to market, and plied the borrowers with the means of buying more. So that, though the price of the ſtock was ſomewhat under eight hundred per cent. the junto ventured ſo far out of their depth, as to take a third money-ſubſcription for the purchaſe of ſtock, at one thouſand per cent. in ten different payments of one hundred pounds each, for five millions of ſtock. In a few days, the firſt payment of

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one hundred pounds rose to four hundred pounds, making the price of the stock one thousand three hundred pounds. A few days after the Midsummer shutting of the books, the price of South-Sea stock, for the opening of them, was at one thousand per cent. and upward, including the ten per cent. Midsummer dividend.

Whilst South-Sea stock was at its meridian height, the stocks of the other two great companies rose gradually above their real value. East-India stock was up to four hundred and forty-five per cent. and Bank stock to two hundred and sixty. This rise was partly occasioned by the sellers out of South-Sea stock, and also out of the bubbles, as they were justly termed, or numerous inferior stocks at very high prizes, who thought their money safer in being invested in these stocks than elsewhere. About Midsummer, 1720, the advanced prices of all the stocks, greater or less, of every kind, were computed to amount to about five hundred millions of pounds sterling, or above five times as much as the current cash of all Europe: and, if the yearly rents of lands and houses in Great Britain, at that time, be supposed not to exceed fourteen millions, and that the full value thereof, houses and lands taken together, did not then exceed sixteen years purchase on an average, or two hundred and twenty-four millions of money, then the current price of all the transferrable funds was above double the amount of the fee simple of all the immoveable property of the nation.

On the 18th of August, the directors of the South-Sea Company, obtained from government a *scire facias* against those airy projects, called bubbles, which, at this time, were become very numerous, and had greatly advanced in their prices, even after an act of parliament had passed this session for suppressing them, and a royal proclamation had likewise been issued to enforce the laws against them. But

theſe reſtraints had not been effectual to repreſs the rage for adventurous enterprizes, excited by the hope of becoming rich, by more ſpeedy means than perſevering induſtry pointed out. 'Change Alley, therefore, was crowded from morning to night, with dealers in thoſe bubbles. Some of theſe were founded on obſolete and forfeited charters, upon the credit of which, large money ſubſcriptions were opened for carrying on what the parties were not authorized to do. Others grafted new and additional projects on their obſolete charters, which had been originally granted for very different purpoſes. A third ſpecies of bubbles, and which, indeed, were the moſt numerous, did not even pretend to charters of any kind. Not a day paſſed without freſh projects, recommended by pompous advertiſements in all the news-papers. On ſome of theſe ſix-pence per cent. was paid down; on others one ſhilling per cent. and ſome deſcended ſo low as one ſhilling per thouſand, at the time of ſubſcribing. Some of the obſcure keepers of thoſe books of ſubſcription, contenting themſelves with what they had procured in the forenoon by the ſubſcriptions of one or two millions, diſappeared in the afternoon of the ſame day. On ſome ſchemes, that had perſons of credit to uſher them into the Alley, ten ſhillings depoſit was paid: ſome were divided into ſhares, inſtead of hundreds and thouſands, upon each of which a certain ſum muſt be paid, and both for them and the other kinds, printed receipts were given, ſigned by perſons utterly unknown. Perſons of quality, of both ſexes, were deeply engaged in theſe bubbles, avarice prevailing at this time over every conſideration, either of dignity or honour. Noblemen reſorted to taverns and coffee-houſes to meet their brokers, and women of quality to the ſhops of milliners and haberdaſhers for the ſame purpoſe. Any impudent impoſtor, whilſt the deluſion was at its greateſt height, needed only to hire a room at ſome coffee-

coffee-houſe, or other houſe, near Exchange Alley, for a few hours, and open a ſubſcription book, for ſomewhat relating to commerce, manufacture, plantation, or ſome ſuppoſed invention, having advertiſed it in the news-papers the preceding day, and ſubſcribers for one or two millions of imaginary ſtock would preſently flock in. Many of the ſubſcribers themſelves were far from believing thoſe projects feaſible; it was enough for their purpoſe that there would very ſoon be a premium on the receipts for thoſe ſubſcriptions, when they generally got rid of them in the crowded alley, to others more credulous than themſelves. And, in all events, the projector was ſure of his depoſit money. So great was the wild confuſion among the crowd in 'Change Alley, that the ſame project or bubble has been known to be ſold at the ſame inſtant of time, ten per cent higher at one end of the Alley than at the other. Poſterity will hardly credit the impoſitions which were ſucceſsfully practiſed on the credulity of mankind. An advertiſement appeared, "for ſubſcribing two millions to a certain promiſing or profitable deſign, which will hereafter be promulgated." Square bits of playing cards, called, "Globe permits," were currently ſold for ſixty guineas and upwards; they had the impreſſion of a ſeal on wax, being ſign of the Globe Tavern, in the neighbourhood of 'Change Alley, with the inſcription of ſail-cloth permits, but no name ſigned thereon. The poſſeſſors of theſe were in ſome future time to be permitted to ſubſcribe to a new ſail-cloth manufacture, projected by one who was then known to be a man of fortune, though afterwards involved in great calamities and diſgrace. To ridicule the infatuation that prevailed, the following advertiſement appeared: "On Tueſday next books will be opened at ———, to receive a ſubſcription of two millions, for the invention of melting down ſaw-duſt and chips, and caſting them into clean boards, without cracks or knots."

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The managers of the South-Sea Company imagined that the traffic in these bubbles obstructed the rise of their stock. The *scire facias* which they procured to suppress them, like the touch of Ithuriel's spear, instantly reduced them all to their proper size and value.

No sooner was this absolute prohibition published in the London Gazette, than a general panic seized the conductors of all the undertakings and projects. The calamities brought on multitudes by this instantaneous discovery of the illusion, under the force of which they had sported away their property, though grievous in themselves, and widely spread, were only preludes to the catastrophe which soon followed, by the fall of South-Sea stock and subscriptions. From the issuing of the *scire facias*, it gradually declined in price, though with many great fluctuations, occasioned by the many arts practised to keep it up. The court of directors now saw their mistake, but too late, in suppressing the bubbles. On the 30th of September, South-Sea stock had fallen to one hundred and seventy per cent. and their bonds were at twenty-five per cent. discount. Towards the close of the year, the consequences of this fatal imposition became openly apparent. Many families of rank and quality sustained irreparable losses. Merchants of the first consequence became bankrupts, mutual confidence was destroyed. Many, who had inherited ample fortunes, and were accustomed to live in splendour, were now reduced to the most abject want. Many, unable to support this reverse of fortune, retired to remote parts of the world to devour their melancholy in silent obscurity, whilst those who had suddenly amassed wealth by successful dealings in the Alley, by their profuse luxuries and unrestrained licentiousness, caused an evil spirit to go forth and prevail in the nation, to corrupt and poison those principles, which are the best security for its safety and prosperity.

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The chief resource of these unfortunate dupes now lay in the legislature, by whose interposition they hoped to obtain an equitable distribution of the undivided South-Sea stock, as far as that would go. A secret committee of the house of commons, which sat in the beginning of the year 1721, made several reports against the conduct of the South-Sea directors, and indirectly against others in very high stations, some of whom were expressly included in the laws made for mulcting those directors, and for sequestrating their estates, and those of some of their principal servants. Knight, the treasurer of the South-Sea Company, who had been entrusted with the whole affair, thought proper to withdraw himself from the kingdom; a proclamation was issued to apprehend him, and another for preventing any of the directors from escaping out of the kingdom. Knight was seized at Tirlemont, and committed to the citadel of Antwerp. The British minister at the court of Vienna, hereupon applied for the delinquent to be delivered up, in order that he might be brought to justice, but the wealth which he had amassed, procured him protection from the states of Brabant, who insisted that they enjoyed a chartered privilege, by which all persons apprehended for crimes, within their jurisdiction, were amenable to that state. The house of commons were much incensed at the protection which was thus granted to a man who had defrauded a whole nation; but, whilst the emperor was afresh entreated to interpose, Knight escaped from his confinement, and found means to elude the vigilance of his pursuers.

In the mean time, the house of commons pursued their enquiries with great spirit; Mr. Secretary Craggs, and Mr. Aislabie, chancellor of the exchequer, were found to have been concerned with the South-Sea directors in their delusive projects. Craggs died before the censure of the house was passed upon his conduct; but Aislabie was expelled the house, and committed

committed a priſoner to the Tower. The South-Sea directors were ordered to deliver inventories of their eſtates, which were confiſcated by act of parliament, towards making good the damages ſuſtained by the company, after a certain allowance was deducted for the ſubſiſtence of each, according to his former rank, and as he had been more or leſs concerned in the frauds.

The whole capital ſtock of the company had amounted to near 38,000,000l. at the end of the year 1720, and only twenty four millions and a half were allotted to the proprietors, the remaining capital ſtock belonging to the company in their corporate capacity. It was the profit ariſing from the execution of the South-Sea ſcheme, and out of this the bill enacted, that ſeven millions ſhould be paid to the public. The preſent act likewiſe directed ſeveral additions to be made to the ſtock of the proprietors, out of that poſſeſſed by the company in their own right; it made a particular diſtribution of ſtock, amounting to two millions two hundred thouſand pounds, and, upon remitting five millions of the ſeven to be paid to the public, annihilated two millions of their capital. It was enacted, that, after theſe diſtributions, the remaining capital ſtock ſhould be divided among all the proprietors. This dividend amounted to 33l. 6s. 8d. per cent. and deprived the company of eight millions nine hundred thouſand pounds. They had lent above 11,000,000 on ſtock unredeemed; of which the parliament diſcharged all the debtors upon their paying ten per cent. Upon this article, the company's loſs exceeded 6,900,000l. for many debtors refuſed to make any payment. The proprietors of the ſtock loudly complained of their being deprived of two millions, and the parliament, in the ſequel, revived that ſum which had been annihilated. By the wiſe and vigorous reſolutions of the parliament, the South-Sea Company was ſoon in a condition to fulfil their

their engagements with the public, the ferment of the people ſubſided, and the credit of the nation was reſtored.

Whilſt theſe domeſtic ferments prevailed, the affairs of the north were ſtill involved in diſagreement and contention. After the death of Charles XII. the Swedes aſſerted that their crown was elective, not hereditary, and proceeded to elect Frederic prince of Heſſe, conſort to their queen, for their king, at her expreſs deſire. Hereby they excluded the Duke of Holſtein, her ſiſter's ſon. The Czar Peter entered into the intereſts of this young prince, and propoſed to the Swediſh diet, that they ſhould annul their election, and ſettle the crown on the Prince of Holſtein, after which he engaged to give him his daughter in marriage, and for her dower the provinces which he had conquered from Sweden; at the ſame time intimating, that, if his offer was refuſed, they muſt expect the war to be proſecuted with redoubled fury; and, in confirmation of this threat, he cauſed great naval preparations to be made in all his ports. As Ulrica Eleanor, Queen of Sweden, had entered into a cloſe league with the King of Great-Britain, it was thought neceſſary to ſupport her huſband in his poſſeſſion of the throne; whereupon Sir John Norris was again ſent into the Baltic, with a ſtrong ſquadron, in order to prevail on the czar to enter into terms of peace. The Engliſh fleet joined that of Sweden as auxiliaries, but they had no opportunity of acting againſt the Ruſſian ſquadron, which ſecured itſelf in Revel. The ſuperiority which was hereby maintained in the Baltic, inclined the czar to liſten to an accommodation, and peace was concluded at Neiſtadt, on the 31ſt of Auguſt, 1721. By this treaty the czar was ſecured in the poſſeſſion of thoſe provinces which he had conquered, in return for which the Swedes received various immunities and advantages. This important buſineſs being ſettled, Sir John Norris took

leave of the Swediſh court, and ſailed for Copenhagen, where he arrived in the beginning of the month of October; and ſoon after he proceeded to England.

The admiralty-board now underwent a change; the Earl of Berkley was appointed firſt lord, Sir John Jennings, John Cockburn, and William Chetwynd, Eſqrs; Sir John Norris, Sir Charles Wager, and Daniel Pulteney, Eſq. commiſſioners for executing the office of lord high-admiral of Great Britain.

The parliament met on the 19th of October, when the houſe of commons granted ſeven thouſand men for the ſervice of the ſea, for the year 1722, at the uſual rate of four pounds a-man per month, at thirteen months in the year. About the beginning of December, Sir Charles Wager and Rear-admiral Hoſier were appointed to command a ſquadron, which was fitted out upon a ſecret expedition, which was generally thought to be deſigned againſt Portugal, to demand ſatisfaction for an inſult offered the Britiſh nation at Liſbon, in the perſons of Meſſrs. Wingfield and Roberts, two gentlemen of the factory there, whoſe effects had been ſeized, their perſons impriſoned, and they even condemned to death, under the pretence of their having exported gold coin. A law had been made in Portugal, by which the exportation of any coin whatſoever was forbidden upon pain of death; but the nature of the trade with England made it neceſſary for the government to connive at the violation of this ſtatute: the woollen manufactures which are imported into Portugal from England being more in value than ſix returns of wine. The motives which led the miniſtry of the court of Liſbon to exerciſe this act of ſeverity is not known, but the vigorous meaſures which were taken by the Britiſh cabinet ſo effectually alarmed thoſe againſt whom they were deſigned, that the gentlemen of the factory were ſet at liberty, and their property reſtored to them, and the whole affair amicably adjuſted. Hereupon the naval

armament

armament was laid aſide, and the harmony between the two nations became re-eſtabliſhed.

Whilſt the tranquillity of Europe thus continued uninterrupted, the piratical depredations in the Weſt-Indies and America, which had been ſuppreſſed by the vigilance of Governor Rogers and other commanders there, (ſee p. 45.) began to be renewed. The Spaniards, who ſecretly fomented theſe outrages, had occaſioned their renewal. The moſt conſiderable of theſe free-booters was one Roberts, who was an experienced ſeaman, fearleſs of danger, qualified to command, and ever vigilant in the execution of his deſigns. He had with him three ſhips; that on which he was on-board carried forty guns, and one hundred and fifty-two men; another had thirty-two guns, and one hundred and thirty-two men; the third was a veſſel of twenty-four guns and ninety-men. With this force Roberts did incredible miſchief in the Weſt-Indies; afterwards he ſailed to Africa, where he took many prizes; but Captain Ogle, in the Swallow, was fortunate enough to ſuppreſs this free-booter in the month of April, 1722. This ſervice was performed with great addreſs in the following manner. As he was cruizing off Cape Lopez, he received intelligence that Roberts and his three ſhips were in an adjoining bay, whereupon he took in his lower tier of guns, and, appearing in ſight, the pirates miſtook him for a merchantman, and one of the ſhips ſlipped their cable, and gave chaſe. Captain Ogle crowded ſail to draw his purſuer to ſuch a diſtance that his confederates might not hear the report of the guns; which, as ſoon as he had reached, he inſtantly tacked, run out his lower tier, and poured his broadſide into the pirate, which killed the commander Skyrm; notwithſtanding which, the engagement was ſupported for an hour and an half, when ſhe ſtruck. Captain Ogle then bent his courſe back to the bay, and, to deceive the other two ſhips, he hoiſted the king's colours under the pirate's

black flag, with a death's head in it. This ſtratagem ſucceeded, for the pirates ſeeing the black flag uppermoſt, concluded the king's ſhip had been taken, and quitted their harbour to congratulate their conſort on his victory. But they ſoon found their miſtake, when a deſperate engagement enſued, which continued for near two hours. Roberts, whoſe determined bravery had till then rendered the conteſt doubtful, was at length killed, when the exertions of his adherents immediately abated, and both ſhips ſoon after ſtruck. Captain Ogle carried his prizes into Cape Coaſt-caſtle, having taken one hundred and ſixty men on-board the three ſhips. Here the priſoners were brought to their trials, ſeventy-four of them were capitally convicted, of theſe fifty-two were executed, and moſt of them hung in chains along the coaſt. This act of juſtice had a very good effect in ſuppreſſing that ſpirit of rapine which was too ready to break out; as the taking ſeveral pirates in the Weſt-Indies, towards the latter end of the ſame year, did in thoſe ſeas. But theſe ſucceſſes were far from putting an end to the miſchief, ſo that it was found neceſſary, ſoon after, to ſend ſeveral ſhips of war to the northern colonies and to Jamaica, which, by degrees, extirpated this dangerous crew of robbers.

The Britiſh government were informed, that the emiſſaries of the pretender were very buſy in carrying on their intrigues at ſeveral foreign courts, and that they had fitted out a ſhip, called the Reſolution, which then lay in the mole of Genoa. Orders were hereupon diſpatched, to the captains of ſuch Engliſh ſhips of war as were cruiſing in the Mediterranean, to ſeize and poſſeſs themſelves of this veſſel, which they performed in the beginning of the month of November. But though the ſhip was ſecured, the officers eſcaped.

The parliament having met on the 9th of October, the houſe of commons, on the 24th of the ſame month, granted

granted ten thouſand men for the ſea-ſervice, at four pounds per month, for the year 1723; and, ſoon after, the king promoted Captain Charles Strickland to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, in the room of Admiral Mighells, who was appointed comptroller of the navy; and, Admiral Littleton dying the fifth of February, Rear-admiral Strickland ſucceeded him as vice-admiral of the white; and Sir George Walton was made rear-admiral of the blue, the other admirals taking place according to their ſeniority.

The year 1723 was remarkable for the death of the Duke of Orleans, regent of France, who ſince the deceaſe of Louis XIV. had ruled that nation with the moſt abſolute authority. From the infirm conſtitution of the infant king, he had conceived hopes of aſcending the throne, and concerted his meaſures accordingly, by entering into cloſe friendſhip with Great Britain and other powers, to enable him to oppoſe the pretenſions of Philip of Spain, who in that caſe would have been his competitor. But how vain are the ſchemes of human ambition! Louis XV. as he advanced towards manhood, became healthy and robuſt, and the aſpiring regent was cut off in an inſtant by an apoplexy, in the 50th year of his age. The Duke of Bourbon ſucceeded as prime miniſter of France, whoſe elevation did not at all change the pacific diſpoſition of that court towards Great Britain.

In the beginning of the next year, Philip king of Spain, grown weary of the crown he had laboured ſo aſſiduouſly to acquire, determined to renounce the world, and retired with his queen to the monaſtery of St. Ildefonſo. Hereupon he ſent the Marquis of Grimaldi, his principal ſecretary of ſtate, to his ſon the Prince of Aſturias, with a ſolemn renunciation of the crown, and a letter of advice, in which he exhorted him to cultivate the bleſſed virgin with the warmeſt devotion, and put himſelf and his kingdoms under her protection. The renunciation was publiſhed through the

the whole monarchy of Spain; and the council of Caſtile reſolved, that Louis, the young prince, might aſſume the reins of government without aſſembling the cortez.

On the 20th of April, 1725, a petition was preſented to the houſe by the Lord Finch, in behalf of Henry St. John lord viſcount Bolingbroke, praying, that the execution of the law with reſpect to his forfeiture might be ſuſpended, as a pardon had already ſuſpended it with reſpect to his life. Mr. Walpole hereupon ſignified to the houſe, by his majeſty's command, that ſeven years before, the petitioner had made his humble application and ſubmiſſion to the king, with aſſurances of duty, allegiance, and fidelity. That, from his behaviour ſince that time, his majeſty was convinced of his being a fit object of his mercy; and conſented to his petitioning the houſe. The petition being read, Mr. Walpole declared himſelf fully ſatisfied, that the petitioner had ſufficiently atoned for his paſt offences, and therefore deſerved the favour of that houſe, ſo far as to enable him to enjoy the family inheritance that was ſettled upon him, which he could not do by virtue of his majeſty's pardon, without an act of parliament. Lord Finch moved, that a bill might be brought in for this purpoſe; and was warmly oppoſed by Mr. Methuen, comptroller of the houſhold, who repreſented Bolingbroke as a monſter of iniquity. His remonſtrance was ſupported by Lord William Powlet and Mr. Onſlow; notwithſtanding this oppoſition, the bill was paſſed through both houſes, and received the royal aſſent.

The public tranquillity was now threatened to be again diſturbed by a new ſyſtem of politics being adopted by the powers upon the continent. The King of Spain died ſoon after his acceſſion to the throne, which drew his father Philip from his monaſtic retreat, and led him to reſume that crown which he had ſurrendered. He was no ſooner reinſtated in his regal dignity,

dignity, than he gave up the reins of government to the entire management of his queen, who poſſeſſed an active enterprizing ſpirit, and whoſe ambition was unbounded. The infanta of Spain had been contracted in marriage to the French king; but that monarch conceived ſo violent a diſlike to his conſort, that he determined to ſend her back, the nuptials not having been conſummated. The Queen of Spain reſented this inſult offered to her daughter, and, in revenge, diſmiſſed Mademoiſelle de Beaujolois, one of the regent's daughters, who had been betrothed to her ſon Don Carlos. A peace between the courts of Vienna and Madrid was concluded at Vienna by the Duke de Ripperda, on the part of his Catholic majeſty. By this treaty the emperor agreed to acknowledge Philip as King of Spain and the Indies; and engaged to offer him no moleſtation in the poſſeſſion of thoſe dominions that were ſecured to him by the treaty of Utrecht. On the other hand, Philip renounced all pretenſions to the dominions in Italy, and the Netherlands, which the emperor held. At the ſame time a treaty of commerce was ſigned, by which the ſubjects of Auſtria were entitled to advantages in trade with Spain, ſuperior to any other nation: the King of Spain guaranteed the Oſtend Eaſt-India company; and agreed to pay an annual ſubſidy of four millions of piaſtres to the emperor.

King George could not remain a calm ſpectator of this cloſe alliance, formed between two powers, one of which the arms and treaſure of Great Britain had been employed to raiſe upon the ruin of the other. To counteract this new confederacy, a defenſive treaty was entered into between Great Britain, France, and Pruſſia, and concluded at Hanover in the month of September, 1725. Hereby the dominions, poſſeſſed by the contracting parties, were mutually guaranteed, as well as the commercial intereſts of each power. King George, in his return from Hanover, after having ratified this alliance, embarked on-board the Caro-

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lina yacht, at Helvoetfluys, on New Year's Day, 1726, with a fair wind at north-eaſt, and ſailed immediately: a few hours after he had got out to ſea, a violent ſtorm aroſe, which diſperſed the fleet, ſo that only one man of war, commanded by Captain Danſie, kept company with the king's yacht, on-board of which was Sir John Norris. This tempeſt continued with unabating fury for thirty-ſix hours, ſo that the whole fleet, as well as the royal yacht, were expoſed to the moſt imminent danger. On the 3d of January, in the morning, the winds ſubſided, when the yachts and the men of war that convoyed them were near Dover; the king that ſame day landed at Rye, and proceeded from thence to London. On the 20th the parliament met, on which occaſion the king in his ſpeech took notice of the engagements which had been entered into by ſome foreign powers, which ſeemed to threaten Europe with freſh troubles and commotions, and particularly to deprive Great Britain of ſome beneficial branches of her commerce. Theſe proceedings he obſerved had obliged him to concert with other powers, ſuch meaſures as might give a check to the ambitious views of thoſe who were endeavouring to render themſelves formidable, and put a ſtop to the farther progreſs of ſuch dangerous deſigns. He added, that the enemies of his government were already very buſy by their inſtruments and emiſſaries in thoſe courts, whoſe meaſures ſeemed moſt to favour their purpoſes, in ſoliciting and promoting the cauſe of the pretender.

On the 26th of January, the houſe of commons reſolved, that ten thouſand men be employed for the ſea-ſervice, for the year 1726, at four pounds a-man per month, for thirteen months. The 23d of February they reſolved, that 212,381l. 5s. be granted for the ordinary of the navy for the ſame year. But, this proviſion being not thought ſufficient, his majeſty, on the 24th of March, ſent a meſſage to the houſe of commons,

mons, importing, that he found it neceſſary to augment his maritime force, and hoped he ſhould be enabled, by the aſſiſtance of parliament, to encreaſe the number of ſeamen already voted, and granted for the ſervice of this year, that he might thereby, not only ſecure to his ſubjects the full and free enjoyment of their trade and navigation, but, in the beſt manner, prevent and fruſtrate ſuch deſigns as had been formed againſt the particular intereſt of this nation, and the general peace of Europe. Upon this meſſage, a very warm debate enſued, which iſſued in an addreſs from the houſe to his majeſty, deſiring that he would be pleaſed to make ſuch an addition to the number of ſeamen already voted, and to concert ſuch other meaſures, as he, in his great wiſdom, ſhould think moſt conducive to the ſecurity of the trade and navigation of this kingdom, and to the preſervation of the peace of Europe; aſſuring his majeſty, that they would effectually provide for, and make good, all ſuch expences and engagements as ſhould be entered into for obtaining thoſe great and deſireable ends.

As ſoon as the courts of Vienna and Madrid apprehended that their views were croſſed, and the ends propoſed by their conjunction diſappointed by the counter-alliance at Hanover, they immediately reſolved to have recourſe to foreign negociations, in order to encreaſe the number of their allies; and, when they found themſelves ſufficiently powerful, they deſigned to have reſorted to open force. With a view to render this ſcheme effectual, the emperor began to execute ſome projects in the north, in which he met, at firſt, with extraordinary ſucceſs. The Czarina Catharine, relict of the Czar Peter the Great, had conceived a diſtaſte to the Britiſh court, and had, by ſome Scottiſh people about her, been drawn to believe it might prove no difficult taſk to overturn the government in Great Britain, and place the Chevalier de St. George on that throne. The ſame ſcheme had been

propoſed at the Imperial court, by ſome of the miniſters; information of which having been given to the court of London, his majeſty took notice of it in his ſpeech. The Spaniſh court readily adopted that, or any other expedient which might procure them Gibraltar, and facilitate their acquiſitions in Italy, then, and ſtill the great objects of their policy.

Such being the poſture of affairs, it was reſolved in council to ſend a ſtrong fleet into the Baltic, to overawe the czarina, whilſt another ſquadron ſhould ſail to the coaſt of Spain, and a third to the Weſt-Indies. The command of the armament for the north was given to Sir Charles Wager, under whom was Sir George Walton. It conſiſted of twenty-two ſhips of the line, one frigate, and an hoſpital-ſhip. The admiral hoiſted his flag on-board the Torbay, a third-rate, at the Nore, on the 13th of April, 1726, and on the 17th ſet ſail, and arrived in Copenhagen-road on the 25th. Here he was joined by ſome Daniſh men of war, and had the honour to entertain the prince royal of Denmark on-board his ſhip. From Copenhagen Sir Charles proceeded to Stockholm, where his fleet anchored on the 6th of May. After having had an audience of his Swediſh majeſty, the admiral ſteered towards Revel, and took the firſt opportunity that offered, of ſending a letter which the King of Great Britain had written to the czarina, encloſed in one to her admiral Apraxin. The king, in this letter, expoſtulated very freely on the ſubject of the czarina's armaments by ſea and land, and on the intrigues into which her miniſters had lately entered with the agents of the pretender. The court of Ruſſia was highly diſpleaſed at this appearance of a Britiſh fleet on their coaſt; but, not having a force ſufficient to oppoſe it, they reluctantly refrained from acts of hoſtility; however, the anſwer which her imperial majeſty returned, was ſtrongly expreſſive of diſpleaſure. Sir Charles Wager continued off Revel till the 28th of September, when,

when, having received certain intelligence that the Ruſſians had laid up their ſhips in their winter harbour, he returned to Copenhagen, and from thence ſailed for England, where he arrived on the firſt of November.

The fleet under Sir John Jennings, which was deſtined to cruiſe off the coaſt of Spain, conſiſted of nine large men of war, which were afterwards joined by ſeveral ſhips from the Mediterranean. The admiral ſailed from St. Helen's on the 28th of July, having on board a body of land forces. On the 3d of Auguſt he entered the bay of St. Antonio, and ſpread conſternation among the Spaniards. On the 25th of the ſame month, the fleet arrived off Liſbon. The King of Portugal ſignifying his deſire of ſeeing our admiral, he went on ſhore, and waited on his moſt faithful majeſty; then re-embarking, he ſailed for the Bay of Bulls, near Cadiz, and cruiſed off Cape St. Mary, yet carefully avoiding all acts of hoſtility. The Spaniſh governor of Cadiz treated him with great civility, and ſupplied him with refreſhments. After remaining for ſome time on this ſtation, the admiral returned to England, having fully effected the purpoſes for which the expedition was undertaken. The councils of Spain were at that time divided: in the cabinet a party prevailed, which breathed nothing but a rupture with Great Britain, whilſt many members there oppoſed ſuch deſperate meaſures, as big with danger. The Duke de Ripperda, a native of Holland, who had renounced the proteſtant religion, and embraced that of the church of Rome, having entered into the ſervice of the King of Spain, rapidly advanced through the different gradations of power, until he became prime miniſter, and the favourite of his ſovereign: this man, whom we have already ſeen negociate the treaty with the Imperial court, was ſuſpected of having divulged the ſecrets of the cabinet to the Engliſh miniſter reſiding at Madrid, and narrowly eſcaped

with his life; he was, however, by the assistance of Colonel Stanhope, the British ambassador, afterwards Earl of Harrington, enabled to escape out of the kingdom.

The third expedition, under Rear-admiral Hosier, still remains to be treated of. He sailed for the West-Indies with seven ships of the line, on the 9th of April, 1726, having instructions to block up the galleons in their ports; or, if they ventured out, to seize them, and bring them to England. Although he had a quick passage, yet the Spaniards had received previous notice of his destination; so that, before his arrival at the Bastimentos near Porto-Bello, the treasure which had been put on-board the galleons, and which amounted to six millions and a half sterling, was relanded, and carried back to Panama, on the other side the isthmus. On the 6th of June, Rear-admiral Hosier anchored within sight of Porto-Bello; the governor of which place thereupon sent to know his demands. Hosier answered, that he waited for the Royal George, a large South-Sea ship, then in the harbour, which had disposed of all her cargo, and had a very large sum of money on-board. The Spaniards, in order to get rid of so disagreeable an observer, caused her immediately to depart, whereby the ship, and the wealth she had on-board, were secured. The consequences which they expected, however, did not follow. The admiral continued on the same station for six months, during which time his seamen were swept off by diseases, contracted through the unhealthiness of the climate; and his ships were so eaten by the worms as to be in a very ruinous condition. He was then obliged to return to Jamaica, where he again manned his fleet, by a number of seamen whom he found there unemployed. He put to sea in two months, and stood over to Carthagena, but the Spaniards had by this time recovered from the panic into which they had been thrown at his first appearance; they

they did not ſcruple to ſeize the Prince Frederic, a South-Sea ſhip, then at La Vera Cruz, with all the veſſels and effects belonging to that company. Hoſier in vain demanded reſtitution, after which he took ſome Spaniſh ſhips, by way of repriſal, which proved to be of no great value. This brave officer, after having remained ſome months on this unſerviceable and deſtructive ſtation, was ſeized with a diſtemper of which he afterwards died. The nation loudly complained of the manner in which this expedition was conducted, and ſaw, with extreme regret, a number of valuable ſeamen deſtroyed, and a fine ſquadron rendered totally uſeleſs, by meaſures injudiciouſly concerted.

In the mean time, the King of Spain purchaſed ſhips of war, and began to make preparations for ſome important undertaking. He likewiſe aſſembled an army at St. Rook, which amounted to twenty thouſand men, under pretence of rebuilding the old caſtle of Gibraltar. The alliance which had been formed at Hanover underwent ſome changes, the States-general and the King of Sweden acceding to it, and the King of Pruſſia, though ſon-in-law to the King of Great Britain, withdrawing himſelf, and even leaguing with the emperor. The Count de las Torres, who commanded the Spaniſh army, actually laid ſiege to Gibraltar by land, towards the cloſe of the year 1726.

The parliament met on the 17th of January; and, ſoon after the houſe of commons voted twenty thouſand men for the ſea-ſervice, and 199,071l. for the ordinary of the navy; the land-tax was fixed at four ſhillings in the pound.

The Imperial reſident at London preſented an angry memorial to the king, in which the emperor, his maſter, was juſtified in entering into the alliance with Spain, which had given ſuch umbrage to the court of London. The conduct of Spain in laying ſiege to Gibraltar was defended; and the impending rupture

was

was roundly imputed to the conduct of the king of Great Britain. Both houses of parliament expressed their indignation at this insulting paper, and the imperial minister was ordered immediately to quit the kingdom.

In this posture of affairs, the king entered into a closer alliance with the court of France, took ten thousand Swedish troops into British pay, and concluded a fresh treaty with the king of Denmark: he also made a convention with the Prince of Hesse Cassel.

On the 11th of February, 1727, the trenches were opened before Gibraltar; a numerous garrison, well provided, defended the place. A small squadron was prepared at Portsmouth to sail with succours, and Sir Charles Wager hoisted his flag on-board the Kent. The Earl of Portmore, who was governor, embarked on-board the admiral's ship, and a reinforcement was put on-board the fleet for the garrison. Sir Charles arrived the beginning of April, and joined Rear-admiral Hosier, who lay in the harbour, the communication by sea remaining open. When the troops from England were landed, the garrison amounted to six thousand men, including five hundred that had arrived from Minorca. Fresh provisions in great abundance were obtained from the coast of Barbary, so that the efforts of the besiegers were regarded only with contempt.

The latter end of April Sir John Norris was sent into the Baltic, and, on his arrival there, he was joined by a Danish squadron. The death of the czarina, which happened on the 17th of May, prevented any act of hostilities being committed, and, in consequence of that event, the fleet of Russia was laid up in harbour.

Notwithstanding these appearances of a widely-extended war, yet the belligerent powers secretly dreaded the consequences of a rupture; and each of them earnestly

earneſtly wiſhed for the re-eſtabliſhment of tranquillity. The King of France interpoſed his mediation to prevent Europe being again embroiled, and the Duke of Richelieu, his ambaſſador at Vienna, firſt propoſed a plan of pacification. At length, all parties agreed to twelve preliminary articles, which were ſigned at Paris, in the month of May, by the miniſters of the Hanover alliance, and afterwards at Vienna, by the Imperial and Spaniſh ambaſſadors. They imported, that hoſtilities ſhould immediately ceaſe; that the charter of the Oſtend Company ſhould be ſuſpended for ſeven years, and that a congreſs ſhould in four months be opened at Aix-la-Chapelle, for adjuſting all differences, and conſolidating the peace of Europe. This congreſs was afterwards transferred to Soiſſons, for the convenience of the French miniſter, whoſe preſence was neceſſary at court. The ſiege of Gibraltar was raiſed, after it had continued four months, during which time the Spaniards had loſt a great number of men by ſickneſs, while the garriſon ſuſtained very little loſs. Some new difficulties were afterwards ſtarted by the court of Madrid, who refuſed to deliver up the South-Sea ſhip which had been detained at la Vera Cruz, ſo that Sir Charles Wager continued to cruize on the coaſt of Spain: but theſe and ſome other objections were removed in the ſequel; and ſuch a reconciliation as treaties could procure was the conſequence: a temporary peace enſued; both ſides only watching an opportunity to renew hoſtilities with advantage.

Soon after the breaking up of the parliament in the year 1727, the king reſolved to viſit his electoral dominions of Hanover. Having appointed a regency in his abſence, he embarked for Holland, and lay upon his landing at a little town called Voet. Next day he proceeded on his journey; and in two days more, between ten and eleven at night, arrived at Delden, to all appearance in perfect health. He ſupped there very

very heartily, and continued his journey early the next morning: but between eight and nine, ordered his coach to ſtop. It being perceived that one of his hands lay motionleſs, Monſieur Fabrice, who had formerly been ſervant to the King of Sweden, and who now attended King George, attempted to quicken the circulation, by chafing it between his own. As this had no effect, the ſurgeon who followed on horſeback was called, and he rubbed it with ſpirits. Soon after, the king's tongue began to ſwell, and he had juſt ſtrength enough to bid them haſten to Oſnaburgh. Then, falling inſenſible into Fabrice's arms, he never recovered; but expired about eleven o'clock the next morning, in the 68th year of his age and 13th of his reign. His body was conveyed to Hanover, and interred among his anceſtors.

George I. was a prince of great virtues; and had many qualities truly amiable. He was very well acquainted with the general intereſt of all the princes in Europe, and particularly well verſed in whatever related to German affairs, with reſpect to which, he always acted as a true patriot, and a firm friend to the conſtitution of the empire. If he ever ſacrificed the intereſts of Great Britain to foreign politics, his miniſters ſtand accountable for the tranſgreſſion, as he always declared an intention to govern according to the laws, and with no other view than the general good of his people. He was allowed, by the beſt judges of military talents, to be an excellent officer. He was very capable of application, and underſtood buſineſs as well as any prince of his time. In his amuſements, he was eaſy and familiar, of a temper very ſenſible of the ſervices that were rendered him; firm in his friendſhips, naturally averſe to violent meaſures, and as compaſſionate as any prince that ever ſat upon a throne.

George I. had married the Princeſs Sophia Dorothy, daughter and heireſs of the Duke of Zell, by whom

whom he had King George II. and the late Queen of Pruſſia. The king's body was conveyed to Hanover, and interred among his anceſtors. From the death of Charles II. to this period, England had made a conſiderable figure in every branch of literature. Dr. Atterbury and Dr. Clarke diſtinguiſhed themſelves in divinity.—Mr. Whiſton wrote in defence of Arianiſm; John Locke ſhone forth the great reſtorer of human reaſon; the Earl of Shafteſbury raiſed an elegant, though feeble, ſyſtem of moral philoſophy; Berkeley, afterwards Biſhop of Cloyne, in Ireland, ſurpaſſed all his contemporaries in ſubtlety and variety in metaphyſical arguments, as well as in the art of deduction; Lord Bolingbroke's talents as a metaphyſician have been queſtioned ſince his poſthumous works appeared. Great progreſs was made in mathematics and aſtronomy, by Wallis, Halley, and Flamſtead; the art of medicine owed ſome valuable improvements to the claſſical Dr. Friend, and the elegant Dr. Mead.—Among the poets of this æra, we number John Phillips, author of a didactic poem, called Cyder, a performance of real merit; he lived and died in obſcurity.—William Congreve, celebrated for his comedies, which are not ſo famous for ſtrength of character and power of humour, as for wit, elegance, and regularity; Vanburgh, who wrote with more nature and fire, though with leſs art and preciſion; Steele, who in his comedies ſucceſsfully engrafted modern characters on the ancient drama; Farquhar, who drew his pictures from fancy rather than from nature, and whoſe chief merit conſiſts in the agreeable pertneſs and vivacity of his dialogue. Addiſon, whoſe fame as a poet greatly exceeded his genius, which was cold and enervate; though he yielded to none in the character of an eſſayiſt, either for ſtyle or matter. Swift, whoſe muſe ſeems to have been mere miſanthropy; he was a cynic rather than a poet, and his natural dryneſs and ſarcaſtic ſeverity would have been unpleaſing, had he

not qualified them, by adopting the extravagant humour of Lucian and Rabelais. Prior was lively, familiar, and amusing; Rowe, solemn, florid, and declamatory. Pope, the prince of lyric poetry, unrivalled in satire, ethics, and polished versification. Gay, whose fables may vie with those of La Fontaine, in native humour, ease and simplicity; and whose genius for pastoral was truly original. Dr. Bentley stood foremost in the list of critics and commentators. Sir Christopher Wren raised some noble monuments of architecture.—The most remarkable political writers were Davenant, Hare, Swift, Steel, Addison, Bolingbroke, and Trenchard.

We shall now proceed to take notice of some of the most important commercial events that happened during this reign.

In 1715, the parliament passed an act for enlarging the fund of the bank of England, relating particularly to exchequer bills. This was commonly called the aggregate fund, though not applied to constitute a part of the general sinking fund for lessening the national debts until three years after. By another act of the same session, the capital stock and yearly fund of the South-Sea Company were enlarged. Queen Anne had informed her parliament a little before her death, that her quarter part of the assiento-contract with Spain was delivered up to the South-Sea Company, but, this not having been formally conveyed, King George confirmed that grant soon after his accession, as also of four ships, two of which were for the purpose of carrying out the company's goods, factors, &c. the other two were ships of war to escort them thither. These ships sailed to America the beginning of the year 1715. The port to which the company were allowed to trade, and at which to settle factories, were Panama, in the South-Sea; Porto Bello, Carthagena, and Vera Cruz, in the Atlantic Ocean; Buenos-Ayres, on the Rio de la Plata; and the port of Havannah,

nah, in the iſland of Cuba; beſides their inland ſubfactories in New Spain, and their agents at Jamaica, as well as at Cadiz and Madrid, in Old Spain.

A bill was brought into the houſe of commons for the better regulation of the charter and proprietary governments in America, and of his majeſty's plantations there; the principal ſcope of which was for the reducing all the proprietary charter-governments into regal ones. Ever ſince the death of Charles II. when the proprietary colonies began to be conſiderable, and more eſpecially ſince the revolution, the adminiſtration had it in contemplation to purchaſe from the proprietors their territorial rights. Overtures were therefore made, and a treaty was ſet on foot with William Penn, for the purchaſe of his fine province of Pennſylvania. He demanded twenty thouſand pounds, and Queen Anne, in council, referred the matter to the conſideration of the lords of the treaſury. The terms were at length agreed upon, and twelve thouſand pounds was the price to be paid for that province; ſoon after which the proprietor was ſeized with an apoplexy, which prevented the completion of the bargain, until by the queen's order a bill ſhould be brought into parliament for that purpoſe. Whilſt that bill was depending in parliament, Mr. Joſhua Gee and others, who were mortgagees under Penn, petitioned the houſe of commons for relief, and, in diſcuſſing the buſineſs, ſuch difficulties aroſe, as occaſioned the bill to be thrown out. When the ſubject came now to be revived, each proprietor ſhewed a great reluctance to alienate his poſſeſſions. The guardians of Lord Baltimore, then a minor, petitioned the houſe that Maryland might be excepted in the grant of American provinces which the bill was deſigned to convey. The revenue ariſing from the civil government of that province they ſtated to amount to three thouſand pounds per annum. A like petition was preſented by the agent for the provinces of Maſſachuſet's Bay

and Connecticut; the former of which repreſented that it derived its charter from King James I. which was afterwards confirmed by King Charles I. whereby the governor and company of the Maſſachuſet's Bay are empowered to appoint their own officers, civil and military, with other privileges. It ſet forth, that in the reign of James II. their charter was vacated, at the ſame time that many corporations in England were diſfranchiſed; that after the revolution, King William reſtored the charter, only reſerving to himſelf the appointment of a governor, lieutenant-governor, ſecretary, judge of the admiralty, and the attorney-general, which charter the province then enjoyed. They therefore humbly conceive, that the charter of their province, being on the ſame footing with the corporations in England, it ſeems equally hard to diveſt them of it, as it would be to diſfranchiſe the corporations at home. They farther urged, that the province had given a valuable conſideration to the crown for their charter, viz. the ſubduing and planting a wilderneſs, at a vaſt expence, and with the loſs of many lives, whereby they had added a large territory to the crown, as well as greatly increaſed the trade and commerce of Britain. That they had at no time abuſed the power which they poſſeſs, by exerciſing it in an oppreſſive and unwarrantable manner, (which was alleged againſt the lords proprietors of Carolina, and cauſed this bill to be brought into parliament;) neither have they neglected the defence of the inhabitants, but on the contrary have well defended both themſelves and their neighbours in a long French and Indian war; and their ordinary charge for guards, garriſons, guardſhips, &c. has been thirty-five thouſands one year with another. And, though hereby the province has contracted a debt of one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, yet they do not complain, nor are they burdenſome to the crown, but are paying it off yearly by degrees; but, if they be deprived of their charter, no compenſation

ſation can be made for it, whereas in the caſe of proprietary governments, an equivalent can be given to the proprietors; but here it cannot be, becauſe the privileges are not veſted in particular perſons, but in the body of the people. The petition of the colony of Connecticut was exactly ſimilar. Petitions were alſo preſented in behalf of the Duke of Beaufort and Lord Craven, both minors, to be heard by counſel againſt the paſſing of the ſaid bill, they being conſiderable proprietors in Carolina and the Bahama Iſlands; as alſo from the agent of Rhode Iſland and Providence plantation in New England. Theſe were referred to the committee to whom the bill was committed, and moſt probably occaſioned the bill to be dropped.

The ſtate of commerce carried on with the northern kingdoms may be eſtimated by the following account of the imports and exports.

Imported into Great Britain in the Year 1716.

	£	
From Denmark and Norway, in maſts, timber, pitch, and tar, hemp, &c.	73,892	
Pruſſia and Livonia, in maſts, hemp, linen, &c.	103,639	
Sweden, iron, pitch, tar, maſts, &c.	136,959	
Ruſſia, hemp, pitch, tar, maſts, &c.	197,270	
		511,760

Exported from Great Britain.

To Denmark and Norway -	60,317	
To the Eaſt Country - -	65,293	
To Sweden - - -	24,101	
To Ruſſia - - -	113,154	
		262,865
Total balance, or loſs to Great Britain		248,895

In

In the year 1717, the intereſt paid on the public debts was reduced from ſix to five per cent. in order gradually to leſſen the national debts. For this purpoſe, the government treated with the Bank and South-Sea companies, to whom a great part of the national debts was due, and brought them to agree, not only for this reduction of the intereſt on their own reſpective capitals, but that the bank ſhould advance or lend to the public, when wanted, two millions five hundred thouſand pounds, and the South-Sea company the ſum of two millions, at five per cent. intereſt; to be in readineſs for paying off ſuch of the proprietors of certain redeemable annuities, as ſhould demand their principal money to be paid them, inſtead of accepting of five per cent. in lieu of their preſent intereſt. Three acts of parliament paſſed the third year of King George, for this purpoſe. This plan ſucceeded to admiration; for all the proprietors of thoſe redeemable debts acquieſced in the reduction of their intereſt, ſo that government had no occaſion to borrow any part of the ſums ready to be advanced by the two companies. The moſt inconteſtable proof of the wealth of the kingdom, which had ſo far reduced what is uſually called the natural intereſt of money, or that rate of intereſt at which money might now be borrowed on good private ſecurity.

Theſe ſavings to the public firſt laid the foundation for the ſinking fund, and which then amounted to 323,434l. 7s. 7d. per annum. This fund, formed on the beſt principle of public utility, was compoſed entirely of the ſurpluſſes or ſavings out of thoſe funds, by the ſeveral reductions now and afterwards made, in the rates of intereſt and allowances to the companies for tranſacting the buſineſs of government. Theſe regulations did not lower the prices of the different ſtocks at market, for at Michaelmas, 1717, they conſiderably roſe in their price; South-Sea ſtock, which at Lady-day was at one hundred three-fourths per cent. was at

Michaelmas

Michaelmas one hundred and eleven and a half per cent.

In the year 1717, the South-Sea company's firſt annual ſhip, the Royal Prince, was laden, and ſailed for la Vera Cruz; and on March, 1718, the South-Sea company's ſecond great annual ſhip was launched, and named the Royal George, in honour of the king, who was governor of the company. But the war with Spain put an effectual ſtop to that company's commerce to the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies, where their effects, factors, and ſervants, were ſeized and detained, by which they were ſuppoſed to have loſt upwards of two hundred thouſand pounds. And although the company's agent at Madrid repreſented theſe cauſes of complaint in very ſtrong terms to Cardinal Alberoni, who promiſed, that the company ſhould be indemnified whenever peace ſhould be reſtored, yet theſe loſſes were never effectually made good. And, indeed, many heavy complaints were made of the oppreſſions practiſed by the Spaniſh governors, in direct violation of the aſſiento treaty. The cargo of one of their ſhips which arrived at Carthagena was confiſcated, on the pretext of over-tonnage, although it afterwards appeared, on re-meaſurement, that its cargo was below the ſtipulated tonnage. Indeed, when this was aſcertained, the company recovered their property, but they were obliged to make their appeal in Europe, which cauſed heavy expences; and, when the matter was decided, the market was loſt. Another of their ſhips, called the Elizabeth, which arrived at Vera Cruz, had a very heavy duty laid on it there, although, according to the treaty, it was ſubject to no duty whatſoever.

About this time pig and bar iron began firſt to be made in the province of Virginia, and of a very good ſtaple or kind; which has ſince been much improved.

From Auguſt, 1715, to Auguſt, 1716, the coinage at the Tower amounted to 1,542,155l. in gold, and only 7000l.

7000l. in silver. It was reckoned, that near two-thirds of that gold was from French Louis d'ors melted down.

About the year 1719, one Captain Barlow was sent out, by certain private adventurers, to discover a north-west passage to China, through Hudson's Bay, which proved a most unfortunate attempt, for neither he nor any of his company were ever heard of; yet a part of the wreck of his ship were said to be found in that bay, in the latitude of sixty-three degrees north.

It was computed, that from the year 1711 to 1719, both years included, there had been exported from England to the East-Indies, in foreign silver bullion, the sum of 3,786,005l. which, on a medium, is, one year with another, 420,667l. annually.

In the 5th year of King George I. a patent was granted to Sir Thomas Lambe, for the sole and exclusive property for fourteen years, of a wonderful machine for silk throwing, which had been some time before erected by his brother, on the river Derwent, at Derby, by mills which work three capital engines. This amazingly grand machine contains twenty-six thousand five hundred and eighty-six wheels, and ninety-seven thousand seven hundred and forty-six movements, which work seventy-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-six yards of organize silk thread every time the water mill-goes round, being thrice in one minute, and three hundred and eighteen millions five hundred and four thousand nine hundred and sixty yards in one day and night. One water-wheel gives motion to all the movements, of which any one may be stopped separately, without obstructing the rest. One fire-engine conveys warm air to every individual part of this vast machine, containing in all its buildings half a quarter of a mile in length. The model of it is said to have been taken by Mr. Lambe, from the original in Piedmont, under the disguise of a common workman; he having secretly drawn its plan

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on paper, and then made his escape to England. These engines have saved vast sums to the nation, which were formerly paid for organize or thrown silk, to the Piedmontese, altogether in ready money. When the term of this patent expired, the patentee applied to parliament, stating, that he had not derived sufficient advantage therefrom, and offering to disclose the secret of the construction for a reasonable sum of money. By an act of the fifth George II. 14,000l. was granted to him from the public, as a consideration for the eminent services he had done the nation, in discovering, introducing, and bringing to full perfection, at his own great expence, a work so useful and beneficial to the kingdom. This act provides, that his majesty shall direct proper persons to view the engines, and to take an exact model thereof; to be deposited in such place as he shall appoint, to secure and perpetuate the art for the advantage of the nation.

It appeared by an enquiry in the house of commons, when the South Sea company's bill was under discussion there, that the propensity to set on foot new projects had been very prevalent for two or three years past. Among the many abortive schemes started, two of a more mature growth were brought into existence, and continue to this day. A charter was granted to certain private gentlemen and merchants, to form themselves into a body corporate. by the name they still bear, of the Royal Exchange Assurance Company; its capital consisting of five hundred thousand pounds. Another association was likewise incorporated for insuring ships and merchandize, by the name of the London Assurance Company. Its first subscription was two millions, and its present stock or capital consists of thirty-six thousand shares, on each of which twelve pounds ten shillings was originally paid. Thus arose the two very useful and flourishing insurance corporations, who also are empowered to lend money upon bottomree, and each of

them afterwards obtained charters for insuring from loss by fire. For the obtaining their charter, each company paid three hundred thousand pounds for discharging the king's civil list debts; but part of that sum was afterwards remitted.

On the 28th of August, 1722, an hurricane happened at Jamaica, which is said to have been the most remarkable that ever was known in that island. Great numbers of the inhabitants were crushed by the sudden fall of their houses, but many more were swept away by an overwhelming inundation of the sea, which being raised by the violence of the wind to a much greater height than was ever known before, broke down the mounds which fenced it off, and spread destruction over a large track of country. In this calamity, the town of Port Royal was particularly involved. At Kingston great damage was done by the force of the wind, but that town was safe from the inroads of the sea. All the vessels that rode in its harbour, however, which were between forty and fifty sail, were either driven on shore, or overset, or sunk; many large ships with all their lading were thrown quite upon dry land; and the next day, when the storm abated, nothing was to be seen in the harbour but wrecks and dead bodies. At Spanish Town the houses were unroofed, and many blown down, but fortunately no lives were lost. The damage which the trading part of the island sustained by the loss of their shipping and goods was immense, whilst the planters were reduced to the most distressed circumstances by the loss of their dwelling-houses and sugar-works. Had the fury of the tempest continued some hours longer, the whole island would have become one general wreck, and nothing short of final and universal ruin would have ensued.

In the same year, the king granted a patent to John Duke of Montagu, of the West-India islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The duke hereupon sent out six

ſix ſhips, freighted with ſtores, and having on-board a number of ſettlers: theſe no ſooner arrived at St. Lucia, than the French governor of Martinico ſent an expreſs, to ſignify, that they muſt withdraw from the iſland in fifteen days, the French king having directed that St. Lucia as well as St. Vincent ſhould remain in their former neutral condition, until a final deciſion ſhould be made between the two crowns. To enforce which, two thouſand men were landed at St. Lucia from Martinico, ſo that the attempt at making the ſettlement was laid aſide. This expedition is ſuppoſed to have coſt the duke no leſs than forty thouſand pounds, being the greateſt and moſt expenſive undertaking ever entered upon by any one ſubject in Chriſtendom, on his own proper riſk.

In the year 1725, the South-Sea company commenced a whale fiſhery, in which they employed twelve new ſhips. They brought home twenty-five whales and a half; but, during the eight years in which they followed this branch of trade, they were in no year ſo ſucceſsful. The expences attending this undertaking were greatly enhanced by the Engliſh having long relinquiſhed the trade, ſo that the company were obliged to procure their commanders, harpooners, boat-ſteerers, line-veerers, &c. from Holſtein, which coſt upwards of three thouſand pounds annually, although not above one hundred and fifty in number.

In the year 1726, a new charter was granted to the Eaſt-India company, by which they were empowered to erect a corporation at fort St. George, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Madrapatan, in the Eaſt-Indies, and another corporation at or within the factory and town of Bombay, by the name of mayor and aldermen of Bombay. Alſo a third corporation, within the factory of Fort William, in Bengal, by the name of the mayor and aldermen of Calcutta, at Fort William, in Bengal; with perpetual ſucceſſion to each of

the three corporations, and a common seal. The charter farther empowered them to make bye-laws, and to try cauſes both civil and military, high-treaſon excepted.

In the laſt year of the reign of George I. an act of parliament was paſſed, to authorize the South-Sea company to purchaſe negroes at Madagaſcar, having firſt obtained the licence and conſent of the Eaſt-India company, within the limits of whoſe trade that iſland was ſuppoſed to be ſituated. Theſe they were to convey immediately to Buenos Ayres, and on no account to diſpoſe of them within the limits of the Eaſt-India company's juriſdiction. Four ſhips were allowed to ſail upon his trade, and the term granted the company by this act extended to ſix years.

At Midſummer, 1727, the reduction of the intereſt on the national debts from five to four per cent. took place, when by the ſinking-fund was increaſed to above one million per annum. Had the miniſtry from that period ſcrupulouſly adhered to the paying off, at leaſt, one million per annum of the public debts, from this time, until the breaking out of the war with Spain in 1739, the reſtrictions laid on trade and commerce would by that time have been eſſentially leſſened; but frugality, in ſuch a mixed government as ours, is little attended to by the executive power, which aims too much at ſtrengthening the authority of the crown, by means of an unwieldy national debt. Hence it is, that the ſinking-fund has been, either directly or indirectly, ſacrilegiouſly and wantonly violated, whence many taxes, duties, and cuſtoms, which were deſigned only to ſerve as a temporary expedient, have been perpetuated, and thereby become heavy clogs on our manufactures and foreign commerce. It has been calculated, that the ſinking-fund, if it had been applied to the diſcharge of the national debt, at the rate above given, of a million a-year, when that debt amounted to fifty millions,

lions, fuppofing it at four per cent. intereft, and the finking-fund increafing annually in like proportion, as fuch a fum would do, if put out at compound intereft, the whole national debt would have been difcharged by the year 1756.

About this time, the French firft began to fupply, in conliderable quantities, the European markets with their fugars from Martinico, St. Domingo, and other fettlements, which markets had formerly been entirely fupplied by the Engliih. And, in a few years after, by their extraordinary affiduity, they gained from us almoft all, or the greateft part of, that very profitable branch of commerce.

It was during this reign that the practice of inoculation for the fmall-pox was introduced into England from Turkey. Prince Frederic, the two Princeffes, Amelia and Carolina, the Duke of Bedford and his fifter, with many other perfons of diftinction, underwent this operation with fuccefs.

OF THE WARS OF ENGLAND DURING THE REIGN OF GEORGE II.

AT the acceffion of George II. the nation had great reafon to wifh for an alteration of meafures. The public debt, notwithftanding the boafted œconomy and management of the miniflers; notwithftanding the finking-fund, which had been extolled as a growing treafure, facred to the difcharge of national incumbrances; was now increafed to 50,261,206l. 19s. 8¾d. The kingdom was bewildered in a labyrinth of treaties and conventions, by which it ftood engaged in pecuniary fubfidies to many powers upon the continent, with whom its real intereffs could never be connected. The wealth of the nation had been laviihed upon thofe foreign connexions, upon unneceffary wars, and fruitlefs expeditions. Dangerous encroachments had been made upon the conftitution by the repeal of the act for triennial parliaments;

ments; by frequent ſuſpenſions of the habeas corpus act upon frivolous occaſions; by repealing clauſes in the act of ſettlement; by votes of credit; by habituating the people to a ſtanding army; and, above all, by eſtabliſhing a ſyſtem of corruption, which, at all times, would ſecure a majority in parliament. The nature of prerogative, by which the liberties of the nation had formerly been often endangered, was now ſo well underſtood, and ſo ſecurely reſtrained, that it could no longer be uſed for the ſame oppreſſive purpoſes: beſides, an avowed extenſion of the prerogative required more ability, courage, and reſolution, than the preſent miniſtry could exert. They underſtood their own ſtrength, and had recourſe to a more ſafe and effectual expedient. The vice, luxury, and proſtitution, of the age, the almoſt total extinction of ſentiment, honour, and public ſpirit, had prepared the minds of men for ſlavery and corruption. The means were in the hands of the miniſtry; the public treaſure was at their devotion: they multiplied places and penſions, to increaſe the number of their dependants: they ſquandered away the money of the nation without diſcernment, decency, or remorſe: they enliſted an army of the moſt abandoned emiſſaries, whom they employed to vindicate the worſt meaſures, in the face of truth, common ſenſe, and common honeſty; and they did not fail to ſtigmatize, as jacobites and enemies to the government, all thoſe who preſumed to queſtion the merit of their adminiſtration.

The interior government of Great Britain was chiefly managed by Sir Robert Walpole, a man of extraordinary talents, who had, from low beginnings, raiſed himſelf to the head of the treaſury. Having obtained a ſeat in the lower houſe, he declared himſelf one of the moſt forward partiſans of the whig faction. He was endued with a ſpecies of eloquence, which, tho' neither nervous nor elegant, flowed with great

great facility, and was ſo plauſible on all ſubjects, that, even when he miſrepreſented the truth, whether from ignorance or deſign, he ſeldom failed to perſuade that part of his audience for whoſe hearing his harangue was chiefly intended. He was well acquainted with the nature of the public funds, and underſtood the whole myſtery of ſtock jobbing. This knowledge produced a connexion between him and the money-corporations, which ſerved to enhance his importance. He perceived the bulk of mankind were actuated by a ſordid thirſt of lucre; he had ſagacity enough to convert the degeneracy of the times to his own advantage; and on this, and this alone, he founded the whole ſuperſtructure of his ſubſequent adminiſtration. In the late reign he had, by dint of ſpeaking deciſively to every queſtion; by boldly impeaching the conduct of the tory miniſters; by his activity in elections, and engaging as a projector in the ſchemes of the monied intereſt; become a leading member in the houſe of commons. By his ſufferings under the tory parliament, he attained the rank of a martyr to his party; his intereſt, his reputation, and his preſumption, daily increaſed: he oppoſed Sunderland as his rival in power, and headed a dangerous defection from the miniſtry, which evinced the greatneſs of his influence and authority. He had the glory of being principally concerned in effecting a reconciliation between the late king and the Prince of Wales: then he was re-aſſociated in the adminiſtration with additional credit; and, from the death of the Earls of Sunderland and Stanhope, he had been making long ſtrides towards the office of prime miniſter. He knew the maxims he had adopted would ſubject him to the hatred, the ridicule, and reproach, of ſome individuals, who had not yet reſigned all ſentiments of patriotiſm, nor all views of oppoſition: but the number of theſe was inconſiderable, when compared to that which conſtituted the

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body of the community; and he would not suffer the consideration of such antagonists to come in competition with his schemes of power, affluence, and authority. Nevertheless, low as he had humbled anti-ministerial association, it required all his artifice to elude, all his patience and natural phlegm to bear, the powerful arguments that were urged, and the keen satire that was exercised, against his measures and management, by a few members in the opposition. Sir William Wyndham possessed all the energy of elocution: Mr. Shippen was calm, intrepid, shrewd, and sarcastic: Mr. Hungerford, sly, insinuating, and ironical. Mr. William Pulteney inherited from nature a good understanding, which he had studiously cultivated. He was one of the most learned members in the house of commons, extremely well qualified to judge of literary productions; well read in history and politics; deeply skilled in the British Constitution, the detail of government, and the nature of the finance. He spoke with freedom, fluency, and uncommon warmth of declamation, which was said to be the effect of personal animosity to Sir Robert, with whom he had been formerly connected. By the following statement from the works of Horace Walpole, it will appear, that the new king really intended a change; but that the abilities of Sir Robert Walpole, joined to the influence of Queen Caroline, prevented it.

"The unexpected death of George I. on his road to Hanover, was instantly notified by Lord Townshend, secretary of state, who attended his majesty, to his brother, Sir Robert Walpole, who, as expeditiously, was the first to carry the news to the successor, and hail him king. The next step was, to ask who his majesty would please should draw his speech to the council.—'Sir Spencer Compton,' replied the new monarch.—The answer was decisive—and implied Sir Robert's dismission. Sir Spencer Compton

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was ſpeaker of the houſe of commons, and treaſurer, I think, at that time to his royal highneſs, who by that firſt command implied his intention of making Sir Spencer his prime miniſter. He was a worthy man, of exceedingly grave formality, but of no parts —as his conduct immediately proved. The poor gentleman was ſo little qualified to accommodate himſelf to the grandeur of the moment, and to conceive how a new ſovereign ſhould addreſs himſelf to his miniſters, and he had alſo been ſo far from meditating to ſupplant the premier, that in his diſtreſs it was to Sir Robert himſelf he had recourſe, and whom he beſought to make the draught of the king's ſpeech for him. The new queen, a better judge than her huſband of the capacities of the two candidates, and who had ſilently watched for a moment proper for overturning the new deſignations, did not loſe a moment in obſerving to the king how prejudicial it would be to his affairs, to prefer to the miniſter in poſſeſſion a man in whoſe judgment his predeceſſor was the fitteſt perſon to execute his office. From that moment there was no more queſtion of Sir Spencer Compton as prime miniſter. He was created an earl, ſoon received the garter, and became preſident of that council, at the head of which he was much fitter to ſit than to direct. Fourteen years afterward he again was nominated by the ſame prince to replace Sir Robert as firſt lord of the treaſury, on the latter's forced reſignation; but not as prime miniſter, the conduct of affairs being ſoon raviſhed from him by that daſhing genius the Earl of Granville, who reduced him to a cypher for the little year in which he ſurvived, and in which his incapacity had been obvious. Sir Spencer Compton, afterward Earl of Wilmington, was ſo far from reſenting Sir Robert's ſuperior talents, that he remained ſtedfaſtly attached to him; and, when the famous motion for removing Sir Robert was made in both houſes, Lord Wilming-

ton, though confined to his bed, and with his head bliftered, rofe and went to the houfe of lords to vote againft a meafure that avowed its own injuftice by being grounded only on popular clamour.

" The pre-occupation of the queen in favour of Walpole muft be explained. He had early difcovered, that in whatever gallantries George prince of Wales indulged or affected, even the perfon of his princefs was dearer to him than any charms in his miftreffes: and though Mrs. Howard (afterward Lady Suffolk) was openly his declared favorite, as avowedly as the Dutchefs of Kendal was his father's, Sir Robert's fagacity difcerned that the power would be lodged with the wife, not with the miftrefs; and he not only devoted himfelf to the princefs, but totally abftained from even vifiting Mrs. Howard; while the injudicious multitude concluded, that the common confequences of an inconftant hufband's paffion for his concubine would follow; and accordingly warmer, if not public, vows were made to the fuppofed favourite than to the prince's confort. They efpecially who in the late reign had been out of favour at court, had, to pave their future path to favour, and to fecure the fall of Sir Robert Walpole, fedulouſly, and no doubt zealouſly, dedicated themfelves to the miftrefs: Bolinbroke fecretly, his friend Swift openly, and as ambitiouſly, cultivated Mrs. Howard: and the neighbourhood of Pope's villa to Richmond facilitated their intercourfe; though his religion forbad his entertaining views beyond thofe of ferving his friends. Lord Bathurft, another of that connection, and Lord Chefterfield, too early for his intereft, founded their hopes on Mrs. Howard's influence; but, aftonifhed and difappointed at finding Walpole not fhaken from his feat, they determined on an experiment that fhould be the touchftone of Mrs. Howard's credit. They perfuaded her to demand of the new king an earl's coronet for Lord Bathurft —fhe

—ſhe did—the queen put in her veto—and Swift in deſpair returned to Ireland, to lament Queen Anne, and curſe Queen Caroline, under the maſk of patriotiſm, in a country he abhorred and deſpiſed.

" At the firſt council held by the new ſovereign, Dr. Wake, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, produced the will of the late king, and delivered it to the ſucceſſor, expecting it would be opened and read in council. On the contrary, his majeſty put it into his pocket, and ſtalked out of the room, without uttering a word on the ſubject. The poor prelate was thunderſtruck, and had not the preſence of mind, or the courage, to demand the teſtament's being opened, or at leaſt to have it regiſtered. No man preſent choſe to be more hardy than the perſon to whom the depoſit had been truſted—perhaps none of them immediately conceived the poſſible violation of ſo ſolemn an act ſo notoriouſly exiſtent. Still, as the king never mentioned the will more, whiſpers only by degrees informed the public, that the will was burnt; at leaſt, that its injunctions were never fulfilled. What the contents were was never aſcertained. Report ſaid, that forty thouſand pounds had been bequeathed to the Ducheſs of Kendal; and more vague rumours ſpoke of a large legacy to the Queen of Pruſſia, daughter of the late king. Of that bequeſt demands were afterward ſaid to have been frequently and roughly made by her ſon, the great King of Pruſſia, between whom and his uncle ſubſiſted much inveteracy. The legacy to the ducheſs was ſome time after on the brink of coming to open and legal diſcuſſion. Lord Cheſterfield marrying her neice and heireſs, the Counteſs of Walſingham, and reſenting his own proſcription at court, was believed to have inſtituted, or at leaſt to have threatened, a ſuit for a recovery of the legacy to the ducheſs, to which he was then become entitled, and it was as confidently believed, that he was quieted by

the payment of twenty thouſand pounds. But, if the archbiſhop had too timidly betrayed the truſt repoſed in him from weakneſs and want of ſpirit, there were two other men who had no ſuch plea of imbecility, and who, being independent and above being awed, baſely ſacrificed their honour and integrity for poſitive ſordid gain. George I. had depoſited duplicates of his will with two ſovereign German princes—I will not ſpecify them, becauſe at this diſtance of time I do not perfectly recollect their titles; but I was actually ſome years ago ſhewn a copy of a letter from one of our ambaſſadors abroad to a ſecretary of ſtate at that period, in which the ambaſſador ſaid, one of the princes in queſtion 'would accept the proffered ſubſidy, and had delivered, or would deliver, the duplicate of the king's will.' The other truſtee was no doubt as little conſcientious and as corrupt. It is a pity the late King of Pruſſia did not learn their infamous treachery!"

The parliament met on the 27th of June, 1727. The great officers of ſtate continued in their places: Sir Robert Walpole kept poſſeſſion of the treaſury; and the ſyſtem of politics, which the late king eſtabliſhed, underwent no ſort of alteration.

The king, in his ſpeech to both houſes at the opening of the ſeſſion, expreſſed a fixed reſolution to merit the love and affection of his people, by ſecuring to them the full enjoyment of their religious and civil rights. He promiſed to leſſen the public expence, as ſoon as the circumſtances of affairs would admit. On the 7th of Auguſt, the parliament was diſſolved, and writs iſſued for electing a new houſe of commons. Lord Torrington was placed at the head of the admiralty; the Earl of Weſtmoreland was appointed firſt lord commiſſioner of trade and plantations; and the Earl of Cheſterfield was nominated ambaſſador to the Hague; the Duke of Devonſhire was made preſident of the council, and the Duke of St. Alban's maſter of the horſe. The coronation of the king and queen was

was performed on the 11th of October, at Weſtminſter Abbey, with the uſual ſolemnities.

In the mean time Sir Charles Wager, with the fleet under his command in the Mediterranean, taking the opportunity of a ceſſation of arms before Gibraltar, ſailed from that bay for Tangier, where coming to an anchor on the 7th of Auguſt, he obtained whatever he demanded of the dey, who entertained him and his principal officers aſhore: Sir Charles weighing from thence on the 31ſt, at his return to Gibraltar-bay, not only found the Spaniards reſolved to continue the ſiege of that fortreſs, till a courier was returned from London; but, contrary to the terms of a ceſſation of hoſtilities, were carrying plank and other materials for repairing the Theſſe battery. On the 13th of September, Sir Charles ſent a letter by Lord Forbes to the Conde de Montemar, complaining of theſe tranſactions; to which the conde only replied, that he would get the admiral's letter tranſlated, and then he would anſwer it.

Sir George Walton, rear-admiral of the red, having joined Sir Charles on the 9th of October, with four ſhips from England, was ſtationed by the admiral, with ſeven men of war, off Cape St. Vincent, to wait the arrival of ſome Spaniſh ſhips, expected from the Weſt-Indies; while Sir Charles with ten more ſailed for Gibraltar, where he anchored on November the 2d. And, having ordered convoy for the outward-bound Turkey men, then arrived in the channel of Malta, was joined by Sir George Walton on the 3d of December, without any ſucceſs. And, on the 11th, the admiral received orders from the Duke of Newcaſtle, to keep a good look-out for the galleons, which were reported to be on their way home; and Admiral Hopſon had inſtructions at the ſame time to ſail to the Weſt Indies, and take the command of the ſquadron there. Upon this Sir Charles ordered ten ſhips to cruize off Cape St. Vincent, eight off Cape Spartel, and ſeven off Cape Finiſterre.

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The parliament met on the 21ſt of January, 1728, when the king, in his ſpeech, demanded ſuch ſupplies as might enable him to act vigorouſly in concert with the allies, provided his endeavours to eſtabliſh an advantageous peace ſhould miſcarry; the apprehenſion of which was greatly ſtrengthened by the dilatory conduct of the courts of Vienna and Madrid. The houſe of commons having conſidered the eſtimates which were laid before them by order of his majeſty, voted 22,955 men for guards and garriſons, and 15,000 ſeamen for the ſervice of the enſuing year. They granted 230,923l. for the maintenance of twelve thouſand Heſſian troops; a ſubſidy of 50,000l. to the King of Sweden; and half that ſum to the Duke of Brunſwick Wolfenbuttel. The expence of the year amounted to four millions, raiſed by a land-tax of three ſhillings in the pound, a malt-tax, and by borrowing of the bank one million ſeven hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, for which annuities, to the amount of ſeventy thouſand pounds, to be raiſed by duties on coals imported into the city of London, were granted to that corporation.

England was at this period quite barren of remarkable events. The king's uncle, Erneſt Auguſtus, Prince of Brunſwick, Duke of York, and Biſhop of Oſnabruck, died on the third of Auguſt, and was ſucceeded in the biſhopric by the Elector of Cologn, according to the pactum by which Oſnabruck is alternately poſſeſſed by the houſe of Brunſwick and that elector. In the beginning of December, his majeſty's eldeſt ſon Prince Frederic arrived in England from Hanover, where he had hitherto reſided, was introduced into the privy-council, and created Prince of Wales. Signior Como, reſident from the Duke of Parma, was ordered to quit the kingdom, becauſe his maſter paid to the pretender the honours due to the king of Great Britain. The congreſs opened at Soiſſons, for determining all diſputes among the powers

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of Europe, proved ineffectual. Such difficulties occurred in ſettling and reconciling ſo many different pretenſions and intereſts, that the contracting parties in the alliance of Hanover propoſed a proviſional treaty, concerning which no definitive anſwer was given as yet by the courts of Vinna and Madrid. The fate of Europe, therefore, continued in ſuſpenſe: the Engliſh fleet lay inactive and rotting in the Weſt-Indies: the ſailors periſhed miſerably, without daring to avenge their country's wrongs; while the Spaniſh cruizers committed depredations with impunity on the commerce of Great Britain. The court of Spain, at this juncture, ſeemed cold and indifferent with regard to a pacification with England. It had renewed a good underſtanding with France, and now ſtrengthened its intereſt by a double alliance of marriage with the royal family of Portugal. The Infanta of this Houſe was betrothed to the Prince of Auſturias: while the Spaniſh Infanta, formerly affianced to the French King, was now matched with the Prince of Brazil, eldeſt ſon of his Portugueſe majeſty. In the month of January, the two courts met in a wooden houſe built over the little river Coya, that ſeparates the two kingdoms, and there the princeſſes were exchanged.

The parliament of Great Britain meeting according to their laſt prorogation on the twenty-firſt of January, 1729, the king, in his ſpeech, communicated the nature of the negociation at the congreſs. He demanded ſuch ſupplies as might enable him to act vigorouſly in concert with his allies, provided his endeavours to eſtabliſh an advantageous peace ſhould miſcarry; and he hinted, that the dilatory conduct of the courts of Vienna and Madrid proceeded, in a great meaſure, from the hopes that were given, of creating diſcontents and diviſions among the ſubjects of Great Britain. This ſuggeſtion was a miniſterial artifice to inflame the zeal and reſentment of the nation, and intimidate the members in the oppoſition. Accordingly the

the hint was purſued, and, in the addreſſes from both houſes, that could not fail of being agreeable, conſidering the manner in which they were dictated, particular notice was taken of this article; both peers and commons expreſſed their deteſtation and abhorrence of thoſe, who, by ſuch baſe and unnatural artifices, ſuggeſted the means of diſtreſſing their country, and clamoured at the inconveniences which they themſelves had occaſioned. In theſe addreſſes, likewiſe, the parliament congratulated his majeſty on the arrival of the Prince of Wales in his Britiſh dominions; and the commons ſent a particular compliment to his royal highneſs on that occaſion. The eſtimates having been examined in the uſual form, the houſe voted fifteen thouſand ſeamen at four pounds a-man per month, for thirteen months, for the current year, and alſo voted 206,025l. for the ordinary of the navy during the ſame time. On the 14th of March, the houſe of commons having previouſly examined accounts of the Spaniſh depredations, and called for ſeveral papers relating thereto, came to the following reſolution, That ever ſince the peace of Utrecht, concluded in 1713, to this time, the Britiſh trade and navigation to and from the ſeveral colonies in America, had been greatly interrupted by the continual depredations of the Spaniards, who had ſeized very valuable effects, and unjuſtly taken and made prize of great numbers of Britiſh ſhips and veſſels in thoſe parts, to the great loſs and damage of the ſubjects of this kingdom, and in manifeſt violation of the treaties ſubſiſting between the two crowns. In conſequence of which reſolution, it was further unanimouſly reſolved, that an humble addreſs be preſented to his majeſty, to deſire he would be graciouſly pleaſed to uſe his utmoſt endeavours to prevent ſuch depredations; to procure juſt and reaſonable ſatisfaction for the loſſes ſuſtained; and to ſecure to his ſubjects the free exerciſe of commerce and navigation, to and from the Britiſh colonies in America. In

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anſwer to which, his majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to promiſe his beſt endeavours to procure their deſires. In purſuance of ſeveral other papers called for, and farther reſolutions taken thereupon, a ſecond addreſs followed much to the ſame purpoſe. The conſequence of all which was, an order, on the 25th of May, for putting thirty-three ſhips, including guardſhips, in commiſſion; to theſe was joined a Dutch ſquadron.

The king had, on the 24th of March, given the royal aſſent to five bills; and, on the 14th of May, the ſame ſanction was given to thirty other bills, including an act, enabling the queen to be regent in the kingdom during his majeſty's abſence, without taking the oaths; and another for the relief of inſolvent debtors. At the ſame time two and thirty private bills were paſſed: then the king expreſſed his approbation of the parliament, ſignified his intention to viſit his German dominions, and ordered the chancellor to prorogue both houſes. His majeſty, having appointed the queen regent of the realm, ſet out for Hanover, on the 17th of May, in order to remove a petty miſunderſtanding which had happened between that electorate and the court of Berlin. Some Hanoverian ſubjects had been preſſed or decoyed into the ſervice of Pruſſia; and the regents of Hanover had ſeized certain Pruſſian officers by way of repriſal. The whole united kingdom of Great Britain as this juncture enjoyed uninterrupted repoſe; and commerce continued to increaſe, in ſpite of all reſtriction and diſcouragement. In this month, Charles lord Townſhend reſigned the ſeals, which were given to Colonel Stanhope, now created Earl of Harrington; ſo that Sir Robert Walpole now reigned without a rival. James earl of Waldegrave was appointed ambaſſador to the court of France, which, about that time, was filled with joy by the birth of a dauphin. In September, Victor Amadeus king of Sardinia reſigned his crown to his ſon Charles Emanuel prince of Piedmont. The father reſerved

to himself a revenue of one hundred thousand piſtoles per annum, retired to the caſtle of Chamberry, and eſpouſed the Counteſs dowager of St. Sebaſtian, who declined the title of queen, but aſſumed that of Marchioneſs of Somerive.

Though the congreſs at Soiſſons proved abortive, conferences were begun at Seville, between the plenipotentiaries of England, France, and Spain; and a treaty was concluded on the ninth of November, not only without the concurrence of the emperor, but even contrary to his right, as eſtabliſhed by the quadruple alliance. On this ſubject he communicated an imperial commiſſorial decree to the ſtates of the empire aſſembled in the diet at Ratiſbon, which was anſwered by the French miniſter de Chauvigny. In October, Peter II. Czar of Muſcovy, and grandſon of Peter I. died in the fifteenth year of his age, at Moſcow, and was ſucceeded on the Ruſſian throne by the Princeſs Anne Ivanowna, ſecond daughter of John Alexowitz, elder brother of the firſt Peter, and widow of Frederic William duke of Courland. The following month was rendered remarkable by the death of Pope Benedict XIII. in whoſe room Cardinal Laurence Corſini was raiſed to the pontificate, and aſſumed the name of Clement XII.

The Britiſh parliament aſſembling on the thirteenth of January, 1730, the king gave them to underſtand, that the peace of Europe was now eſtabliſhed by the treaty of Seville, built upon the foundation of former treaties, and tending to render more effectual what the contracting powers in the quadruple alliance were before engaged to ſee performed. He aſſured them, that all former conventions made with Spain in favour of the Britiſh trade and navigation were renewed and confirmed: that the free uninterrupted exerciſe of their commerce was reſtored: that the court of Spain had agreed to an ample reſtitution and reparation for unlawful ſeizures and depredations: that all

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rights, privileges, and poſſeſſions, belonging to him and his allies, were ſolemnly re-eſtabliſhed, confirmed, and guaranteed; and that not one conceſſion was made to the prejudice of his ſubjects. He told them he had given orders for reducing a great number of his land forces, and for laying up great part of the fleet; and obſerved that there would be a conſiderable ſaving in the expence of the current year. After both houſes had preſented their addreſſes of thanks and congratulation to the king on the peace of Seville, the lords took that treaty into conſideration, and it did not paſs enquiry without ſevere animadverſion. The oppoſition excepted to the article by which the merchants of Great Britain were obliged to make proof of their loſſes at the court of Spain. They ſaid this ſtipulation was a hardſhip upon Britiſh ſubjects, and diſhonourable to the nation: that few would care to undertake ſuch a troubleſome and expenſive journey, eſpecially as they had reaſon to apprehend their claims would be counterbalanced by the Spaniards; and, after all, they would have no more than the ſlender comfort of hoping to obtain that redreſs by commiſſaries which they had not been able to procure by plenipotentiaries. They thought it very extraordinary, that Great Britain ſhould be bound to ratify and guarantee whatever agreement ſhould be made between the King of Spain and the Dukes of Parma and Tuſcany, concerning the garriſons once eſtabliſhed in their countries: that the Engliſh ſhould be obliged to aſſiſt in effectuating the introduction of ſix thouſand Spaniſh troops into the towns of Tuſcany and Parma, without any ſpecification of the methods to be taken, or the charge to be incurred, in giving that aſſiſtance: that they ſhould guarantee for ever, not only to Don Carlos, but even to all his ſucceſſors, the poſſeſſion of the eſtates of Tuſcany and Parma; a ſtipulation which in all probability would involve Great Britain in endleſs quarrels and diſputes, about a country with which

they had no concern. They affirmed that the treaty of Seville, inſtead of confirming other treaties, was contradictory to the quadruple alliance; particularly in the article of introducing Spaniſh troops into Tuſcany and Parma, in the room of neutral forces ſtipulated by the former alliance; and agreeing that they ſhould there remain until Don Carlos and his ſucceſſors ſhould be ſecure and exempt from all events. They complained that theſe alterations, from the tenor of the quadruple alliance, were made without the concurrence of the emperor, and even without inviting him to accede; an affront which might alienate his friendſhip from England, and hazard the loſs of ſuch an ancient, powerful, and faithful, ally: they declared that throughout the whole treaty there ſeemed to be an artful omiſſion of any expreſs ſtipulation, to ſecure Great Britain in her right to Gibraltar and Minorca. Such was the ſubſtance of the objections made to the peace. The majority, far from ſtigmatiſing this tranſaction, reſolved, that the treaty did contain all neceſſary ſtipulation for maintaining and ſecuring the honour, dignity, rights, and poſſeſſions of the crown: that all due care was taken therein for the ſupport of the trade of the kingdom, and for repairing the loſſes ſuſtained by the Britiſh merchants. On theſe reſolutions an addreſs of approbation was founded.

The ſubſidies were continued to the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel and the Duke of Brunſwick Wolfenbuttel, in ſpite of all that could be urged againſt theſe extraneous incumbrances; and the ſupply for the enſuing year was granted according to the eſtimates which the miniſtry thought proper to produce, amounting to about 2,280,000l. It muſt be owned, however, for the credit of this ſeſſion, that the houſe appropriated one million of the ſurpluſſes ariſing from the ſinking fund towards the diſcharge of the national debt; and by another act extinguiſhed the duties upon ſalt, by which expedient the ſubject was eaſed of a heavy burthen,

then, not only in being freed from the duty, but alſo from a conſiderable charge of ſalaries given to a great number of officers employed to collect this impoſition. They likewiſe encouraged the colony of Carolina with an act, allowing the planters and traders of that province to export rice directly to any part of Europe ſouthward of Cape Finiſterre; and they permitted ſalt from Europe to be imported into the colony of New York.

The term of the excluſive trade granted by act of parliament to the Eaſt-India company drawing towards a period, many conſiderable merchants and others made application for being incorporated and veſted with the privilege of trading to thoſe countries, propoſing to lay that branch of trade open to all the ſubjects of Great Britain, on certain conditions. In conſideration of an act of parliament for this purpoſe, they offered to advance 3,200,000l. for redeeming the fund and trade of the preſent Eaſt-India company. This propoſal was rejected; and the excluſive privilege veſted in the company was, by act of parliament, protracted to the year 1766, upon the following conditions: that they ſhould pay into the Exchequer the ſum of 200,000l. towards the ſupplies of the year, without intereſt or addition to their capital ſtock; that the annuity or yearly fund of 160,000l. payable to them from the public, ſhould be reduced to 128,000l. that, after the year 1766, their right to the excluſive trade ſhould be liable to be taken away by parliament, on three years notice, and repayment of their capital. Yet the company were then permitted to continue as a corporation for ever, to enjoy the Eaſt-India trade in common with all other ſubjects. Farther, the company at any time, on one year's notice, after Lady-day, 1736, might be paid off their whole capital, by any payments not leſs than 500,000l. at a time; and ſo on from time to time, on ſuch yearly notices by parliament. The company were, by this act,

act, debarred from poſſeſſing in Great Britain lands or tenements exceeding 10,000l. yearly rent.

About this time advice was received from Charleſtown, in South Carolina, that one of the Spaniſh guarda coſtas meeting with the Durſley galley man of war, and taking her for a merchant ſhip, bore down and poured a broadſide into her, but was taken, after having five or ſix men killed, and about twenty wounded, without the loſs of one man in the Durſley. However, as an inſtance of our dealing more favourably with the Spaniards than they had done with us, ſhe was ſoon after releaſed; as was alſo a Spaniſh advice-boat, which had been taken and carried into Jamaica.

The confederate fleet of the Engliſh and Dutch at Spithead raiſed expectations in the public, who now imagined that ſome bold ſtroke was intended in favour of our merchants. But, after ſpending about three months in a pompous parade, the Dutch ſailed homewards; and, on the 16th of October, twelve of our largeſt ſhips were ordered to be laid up, viz. the Cornwall, Naſſau, Grafton, Burford, and Sunderland, at Chatham; and the Princeſs Amelia, Berwick, Monmouth, Kent, Royal Oak, Kingſton, and Falkland, at Portſmouth. This fleet, however, it is generally thought, accelerated the ſigning of the convention, and alſo the diſpatching thoſe orders which were carried to Cuba, by the new governor of that iſland, by virtue of which he impriſoned his predeceſſor, and even laid him in irons, at the ſame time declaring, that his inſtructions were to live in amity with the Engliſh. But all this, as appeared by the conſequences, proved no more than grimace; for the guarda coſtas continued their former depredations.

This year was not diſtinguiſhed by any tranſaction of great moment.—Seven chiefs of the Cherokee nations of Indians in America were brought to England by Sir Alexander Cumin. Being introduced to the king, they laid their crown and regalia at his feet; and

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by an authentic deed acknowledged themſelves ſubject to his dominion, in the name of all their compatriots, who had veſted them with full power for this purpoſe. They were amazed and confounded at the riches and magnificence of the Britiſh court: they compared the king and queen to the ſun and moon, the princes to the ſtars of heaven, and themſelves to nothing. They gave their aſſent in the moſt ſolemn manner to articles of friendſhip and commerce, propoſed by the lords commiſſioners for trade and plantations; and, being loaded with preſents of neceſſaries, arms, and ammunition, were re-conveyed to their own country, which borders on the province of South Carolina.—In the month of September a ſurpriſing revolution was effected at Conſtantinople, without bloodſhed or confuſion. A few mean janiſſaries diſplayed a flag in the ſtreets, exclaiming that all true Muſſelmen ought to follow them, and aſſiſt in reforming the government. They ſoon increaſed to the number of 100,000, marched to the ſeraglio, and demanded the grand vizar, the kiaja, and capitan pacha. Theſe unhappy miniſters were immediately ſtrangled. Their bodies, being immediately delivered to the inſurgents, were dragged through the ſtreets; and afterwards thrown to the dogs to be devoured. Not contented with this ſacrifice, the revolters depoſed the grand ſignor Achmet, who was confined to the ſame priſon from whence they brought his nephew, Macmut, and raiſed this laſt to the throne, after he had lived ſeven-and-twenty years in confinement.

In the ſpeech with which the king opened the parliament on the 21ſt of January, 1731, he told them, that the preſent critical conjuncture ſeemed in a very particular manner to deſerve their attention: that, as the tranſactions then depending in the ſeveral courts of Europe were upon the point of being determined, the great event of peace or war might be very much affected by their firſt reſolutions, which were expected

expected by different powers with great impatience. He said, the continuance of that zeal and vigour with which they had hitherto supported him and his engagements must, at this time, be of the greatest weight and importance, both with regard to his allies, and to those who might be disposed, before the season of action, to prevent, by an accommodation, the fatal consequences of a general rupture. When the supply fell under consideration, the debates were renewed upon the subsidies to the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel and the Duke of Wolfenbuttel, which, however, were continued: and every article was granted according to the estimates given in for the expence of the ensuing year. A great number of merchants from different parts of the kingdom having repeated their complaints of depredations and cruelties committed by the Spaniards in the West-Indies, their petitions were referred to the consideration of a grand committee. Their complaints, upon examination, appeared to be well founded. The house presented an address to the king, desiring his majesty would be graciously pleased to continue his endeavours to prevent such depredations for the future; to procure full satisfaction for the damages already sustained; and, to secure to the British subjects the full and uninterrupted exercise of their trade and navigation to and from the British colonies in America.

The house of peers proceeded to consider the state of the national debt: they read a bill for the free importation of wool from Ireland into England, which was fiercely opposed, and laid aside, contrary to all the rules of sound policy. A fruitless motion was made by Lord Bathurst for an address, to desire his majesty would give directions for discharging the Hessian troops that were in the pay of Great Britain. —On the 7th of May the parliament was prorogued, after the king had given them to understand, that all apprehensions of war were now happily removed, by a treaty

a treaty ſigned at Vienna between him and the emperor. He ſaid it was communicated to the courts of France and Spain, as parties to the treaty of Seville, the execution of which it principally regarded; and that it was likewiſe ſubmitted to the conſideration of the States-General. He obſerved, that the conditions and engagements into which he had entered, on this occaſion, were agreeable to that neceſſary concern which the Britiſh nation muſt always have for the ſecurity and preſervation of the balance of power in Europe: and, that this happy turn, duly improved, with a juſt regard to former alliances, yielded a favourable proſpect of ſeeing the public tranquillity re-eſtabliſhed.

In the month of January the Duke of Parma died, after having made a will in which he declared his ducheſs was three months advanced in her pregnancy; entreating the allied powers of Europe to have compaſſion upon his people, and defer the execution of their projects until his conſort ſhould be delivered. In caſe the child ſhould be ſtill born, or die after the birth, he bequeathed his dominions and allodial eſtates to the infant Don Carlos of Spain; and appointed five regents to govern the dutchy. Notwithſtanding this diſpoſition, a body of imperial troops immediately took poſſeſſion of Parma and Placentia, under the command of General Stampa, who declared they ſhould conduct themſelves with all poſſible regularity and moderation, and leave the adminiſtration entirely to the regents whom the duke had appointed. They publicly proclaimed in the market-place, that they took poſſeſſion of theſe duchies for the infant Don Carlos: and that, if the ducheſs dowager ſhould not be delivered of a prince, the ſaid infant might receive the inveſtiture from the emperor whenever he would, provided he ſhould come without an army. Though theſe ſteps ſeemed to threaten an immediate war, the King of Great Britain and the States-General

interpoſed their mediation ſo effectually with the court of Vienna, that the emperor deſiſted from the proſecution of his deſign; and, on the 16th of March, concluded at Vienna a treaty with his Britannic majeſty, by which he conſented to withdraw his troops from Parma and Placentia. He agreed, that the King of Spain might take poſſeſſion of theſe places in favour of his ſon Don Carlos, according to the treaty of Seville. He likewiſe agreed, that the Oſtend company, which had given ſuch umbrage to the maritime powers, ſhould be totally diſſolved, on condition that the contracting powers concerned in the treaty of Seville ſhould guarantee the pragmatic ſanction, or ſucceſſion of the Auſtrian hereditary dominions to the heirs female of the emperor, in caſe he ſhould die without male iſſue. The Dutch miniſter reſiding at the Imperial court did not ſubſcribe this treaty, becauſe, by the maxims received in that republic, and the nature of her government, he could not be veſted with full powers ſo ſoon as it would have been neceſſary: nevertheleſs, the States-General were, by a ſeparate article, expreſsly named as a principal contracting party.

On the 22d of July a new treaty was ſigned at Vienna between the Emperor and the Kings of Great Britain and Spain, tending to confirm the former. In Auguſt a treaty of union and defenſive alliance between the electorates of Saxony and Hanover, was executed at Dreſden.—The court of Spain expreſſing ſome doubts with regard to the pregnancy of the Ducheſs of Parma, ſhe underwent a formal examination by five midwives of different nations, in preſence of the older ducheſs dowager, ſeveral ladies of quality, three phyſicians, and a ſurgeon; and was declared with child: nevertheleſs, after having kept all Europe in ſuſpenſe for ſix months, ſhe owned ſhe had been deceived; and General Stampa, with the imperial forces, took formal poſſeſſion of the duchies of Parma and Placentia. Spain and the Great Duke of Tuſcany

cany having acceded to the laſt treaty of Vienna, the crown of Great Britain engaged to equip an armament that ſhould convoy Don Carlos to his new dominions. Accordingly, Sir Charles Wager ſailed with a ſtrong ſquadron from Portſmouth on the 14th of July; having been appointed admiral of the blue, he hoiſted his flag on-board the Namur. On the 1ſt of Auguſt he arrived in the bay of Cadiz; and, ſetting out by land from Port St. Mary, he reached Seville on the 6th, where he had an audience of their catholic majeſties, and was very graciouſly received. The King of Spain, on this occaſion, preſented the admiral with his picture, ſet in diamonds, worth five thouſand pounds. He was accompanied to this audience by Mr. Keene, the Britiſh envoy, and attended by ſeveral gentlemen who came with him from on-board the ſquadron, and by all the Britiſh merchants who reſided at Seville. On the 16th he ſailed from Cadiz, and the next day arrived at Gibraltar; here he continued five days, and took ſome troops on-board; from whence he proceeded to Barcelona, where he arrived on the 2d of September. Here he was joined by a Spaniſh fleet and tranſports, the whole of which ſailed together to Leghorn. On the 26th of October, Sir Charles ſet ſail on his return to England with the whole Britiſh fleet; and, the imperial general having withdrawn his forces into the Milaneſe, the infant took quiet poſſeſſion of his new territories.

Nothwithſtanding this apparent amity between the courts of London and Madrid, advices from the Weſt-Indies were full of accounts of the inſults and cruelties committed by the Spaniards on the Engliſh in thoſe parts. The treatment of Robert Jenkins, maſter of the Rebecca, whoſe ear they cut off, was attended with circumſtances, highly aggravating. After they had thus maimed him, they gave him back his ear, telling him to carry that preſent home to his maſter, the King of Great Britain.

In November this fame year, four twenty-gun ſhips, and two ſmall ſloops, were put into commiſſion, and ordered to be ſheathed for the Weſt-India ſervice; and, in January following, were added two more twenty-gun ſhips, in order to cruiſe againſt the guarda coſtas, who ſtill continued their depredations. Upon receiving intelligence of theſe preparations in England, the Spaniſh miniſtry pretended to put a ſtop to thoſe hoſtilities, by tranſmitting a ſchedule from their king, by the hands of Mr. Keene, the Britiſh miniſter at Madrid to London, in order to be diſpatched to Rear-admiral Stewart, who was to communicate the ſame to the Spaniſh governors. But, as this ſchedule excepted from any benefit of it, all who carried on an illicit trade, and did not determine what was comprehended under the term illicit, this vague order produced no good effect; but the Spaniſh piracies under the king's commiſſion rather increaſed.

The next object of importance that attracted the notice of the houſe was the ſtate of the Charitable Corporation. This company was firſt erected in the year 1707. Their profeſſed intention was to lend money at legal intereſt to the poor, upon ſmall pledges; and to perſons of better rank upon an indubitable ſecurity of goods impawned. Their capital was at firſt limited to thirty thouſand pounds; but, by licences from the crown, they increaſed it to ſix hundred thouſand pounds, though their charter was never confirmed by act of parliament. In the month of October, George Robinſon, Eſq. member for Marlow, the caſhier, and John Thompſon, warehouſekeeper of the corporation, diſappeared in one day. The proprietors, alarmed at this incident, held ſeveral general courts, and appointed a committee to inſpect the ſtate of their affairs. They reported, that for a capital of above five hundred thouſand pounds, no equivalent was found; inaſmuch as their effects did not amount to the value of thirty thouſand, the remainder

mainder having been embezzled by means which they could not diſcover. The proprietors, in a petition to the houſe of commons, repreſented that by the moſt notorious breach of truſt in ſeveral perſons to whom the care and management of their affairs were committed, the corporation had been defrauded of the greateſt part of their capital; and that many of the petitioners were reduced to the utmoſt degree of miſery and diſtreſs; they, therefore, prayed, that as they were unable to detect the combinations of thoſe who had ruined them, or to bring the delinquents to juſtice, without the aid of the power and authority of parliament, the houſe would vouchſafe to enquire into the ſtate of the corporation, and the conduct of their managers; and give ſuch relief to the petitioners as to the houſe ſhould ſeem meet. The petition was graciouſly received, and a ſecret committee appointed to proceed on the enquiry. They ſoon diſcovered a moſt iniquitous ſcene of fraud, which had been acted by Robinſon and Thompſon, in concert with ſome of the directors, for embezzling the capital, and cheating the proprietors. Many perſons of rank and quality were concerned in this infamous conſpiracy: ſome of the firſt characters in the nation did not eſcape ſuſpicion and cenſure. No leſs than ſix members of parliament were expelled for the moſt ſordid acts of knavery. Sir Robert Sutton, Sir Archibald Grant, and George Robinſon, for their frauds in the management of the charitable corporation ſcheme; Dennis Bond, and Serjeant Burch, for a fraudulent ſale of the unfortunate Earl of Derwentwater's eſtate; and, laſtly, John Ward, of Hackney, for forgery. It was at this time aſſerted in the houſe of lords, that not one ſhilling of the forfeited eſtates was ever applied to the ſervices of the public: a bill was prepared to make the ſale void. In the mean time, the committee received a letter from Signor John Angelo Belloni, an eminent banker at Rome,

Rome, giving them to underſtand, that Thompſon was ſecured in that city, with all his papers, and confined to the caſtle of St. Angelo; and that the papers were tranſmitted to his correſpondent at Paris, who would deliver them up, on certain conditions ſtipulated in favour of the priſoner. This letter was conſidered as an artifice to inſinuate a favourable opinion of the pretender, as if he had taken meaſures for ſecuring Thompſon, from his zeal for juſtice, and affection for the Engliſh people. On this ſuppoſition, the propoſals were rejected with diſdain; and both houſes concurred in an order that the letter ſhould be burned at the Royal Exchange, by the hands of the common hangman. The lower houſe reſolved, that it was an inſolent and audacious libel, abſurd and contradictory; that the whole tranſaction was a ſcandalous artifice, calculated to delude the unhappy, and to diſguiſe and conceal the wicked practices of the profeſſed enemies to his majeſty's perſon, crown, and dignity. The ſufferers were relieved by a lottery in the enſuing ſeſſion.

No motion, during this ſeſſion, produced ſuch a warm conteſt as did that of Sir Robert Walpole, when he propoſed that the duties on ſalt, which about two years before had been aboliſhed, ſhould now be revived, and granted to his majeſty, his heirs, and ſucceſſors, for the term of three years. In order to ſweeten this propoſal, he declared that the land-tax for the enſuing year ſhould be reduced to one ſhilling in the pound. The members of the country party expreſſed their ſurpriſe at this propoſal. They obſerved, that two years had ſcarcely elapſed ſince the king, in a ſpeech from the throne, had exhorted them to aboliſh ſome of the taxes that were the moſt burthenſome to the poor: and that no good reaſon could be produced for altering their opinion ſo ſuddenly, and reſolving to grind the faces of the poor, in order to eaſe a few rich men of the landed intereſt. They affirmed,

affirmed, that the land-tax was raiſed at a very ſmall expence, and ſubject to no fraud, whereas that upon ſalt would employ a great number of additional officers in the revenue, wholly depending upon the miniſtry, whoſe influence in elections they would proportionably increaſe. They even hinted, that this conſideration was one powerful motive for propoſing the revival of an odious tax, which was in effect an exciſe, and would be deemed a ſtep towards a general exciſe upon all ſorts of proviſions. Sir Robert Walpole endeavoured to obviate theſe objections in a long ſpeech, which was minutely anſwered by Mr. Pulteney. Nevertheleſs, the queſtion being put, the miniſter's motion was carried in the affirmative, and the duty revived: yet, before the bill paſſed, divers motions were made, and additional clauſes propoſed, by the members in the oppoſition. New debates were raiſed on every new objection, and the courtiers were obliged to diſpute their ground by inches.

The year 1732 was entirely barren of hoſtile events; towards the cloſe of it his majeſty granted a commiſſion to the lords of the admiralty, to erect a corporation for the relief of poor widows of ſea-officers; to conſiſt of the lords of the admiralty, and the commiſſioners of the navy and victualling for the time being, and a certain number of the eldeſt captains and lieutenants in the navy. The terms of admiſſion for partaking of the benefits of this inſtitution were, that each member, who muſt be an officer in the navy, allow three-pence in the pound per annum out of his pay. Hereby an admiral's widow became entitled to fifty pounds a-year for life; a captain's, forty; a lieutenant's, thirty; other officers' widows, twenty pounds each. The cheſt at Chatham to be taken into this corporation, and the money raiſed to be put out to intereſt. A few months after this fund was eſtabliſhed, Lieutenant George Crowe reſigned his half-pay, amounting to 45l. 12s. 6d. per annum, to the

the lords of the admiralty for the use of this corporation, he having a competency to live on. An instance of generosity that well deserves to be recorded!

When the house of commons met, Sir Wilfred Lawson having made a motion for an address to the king, to know what satisfaction had been made by Spain for the depredations committed on the British merchants, it was, after a violent debate, approved, and the address presented. The king, in answer, informed the house, that the meeting of the commissaries of the two crowns had been so long delayed by unforeseen accidents, that the conferences were not opened till the latter end of the preceding February, and that as the courts of London and Madrid had agreed, that the term of three years stipulated for finishing the commission should be computed from their first meeting, a perfect account of their proceedings could not as yet be laid before them. The parliament having granted every branch of the supply, towards the payment of which they borrowed a sum from the sinking fund, and passed divers other acts for the encouragement of commerce and agriculture, the king, on the first of June, gave his assent to the bills that were prepared, and closed the session, after having informed both houses that the States-General had acceded to the treaty of Vienna: that he had determined to visit his German dominions, and to leave the queen regent in his absence. He accordingly set out for Hanover in the beginning of June.

By this time the pragmatic sanction was confirmed by the diet of the empire, though not without a formal protest by the Electors Palatine, Bavaria, and Saxony. Victor Amadæus, the abdicated King of Sardinia, having, at the instigation of his wife, engaged in some intrigues, in order to re-ascend the throne, his son, the reigning king ordered his person to be seized at Montcalier, and conveyed to Rivoli under a strong escort. His wife, the Marchioness de Spigno,

Spigno, was conducted to Seva. The old king's confeſſor, his phyſician, and eight-and-forty perſons of diſtinction, were impriſoned. The citadel of Turin was ſecured with a ſtrong garriſon; and new inſtructions were given to the governor and ſenate of Chamberri. The diſpute which had long ſubſiſted between the King of Pruſſia and the young Prince of Orange, touching the ſucceſſion to the eſtates poſſeſſed by King William III. as head of the houſe of Orange, was at laſt accommodated by a formal treaty ſigned at Berlin and Dieren.—The Dutch were greatly alarmed about this time with an apprehenſion of being overwhelmed by an inundation, occaſioned by worms, which were ſaid to have conſumed the piles and timber-work that ſupported their dykes. They prayed and faſted with uncommon zeal, in terror of this calamity, which they did not know how to avert in any other manner. At length they were delivered from their fears by a hard froſt, which effectually deſtroyed thoſe dangerous animals.—About this time, Mr. Dieden, plenipotentiary from the Elector of Hanover, received, in the name of his maſter, the inveſtiture of Bremen and Verden from the hands of the emperor.

The ſeſſion of parliament which began on the 16th of January, 1733, was diſtinguiſhed by an important affair, which threw not only the houſe of commons, but the whole nation, into a flame. This was the exciſe bill, which Sir Robert Walpole introduced into the houſe, by firſt declaiming againſt the frauds practiſed by the factors of London, who were employed by the American planters, in ſelling their tobacco. To prevent theſe frauds, he propoſed to join the laws of exciſe to thoſe of the cuſtoms, that the farther ſum of three farthings per pound, charged upon imported tobacco, ſhould be ſtill levied at the cuſtom-houſe, and that it ſhould be then lodged in warehouſes appointed by the commiſſioners of exciſe. That the keeper of each warehouſe ſhould have one lock and

key, and the merchant-importer another; and that the tobacco ſhould be thus ſecured. till the merchant ſhould find vend for it, either by exportation or home-conſumption: the part aſſigned for exportation ſhould be weighed at the cuſtom-houſe, diſcharged of the three farthings per pound, which had been paid at its firſt importation, and then exported, without farther trouble: that what was deſtined for home-conſumption ſhould, in the preſence of the warehouſe-keeper, be delivered to the purchaſer, upon his paying the inland duty of four-pence per pound; by which means the merchant would be eaſed of the inconvenience of paying the duty upon importation, or of granting bonds, and finding ſureties for the payment, before he had found a market for his commodity: that all penalties and forfeitures, ſo far as they formerly belonged to the crown, ſhould, for the future, be applied to the uſe of the public: that appeals in this, as well as in all other caſes relating to the exciſe, ſhould be heard and determined by two or three of the judges, to be nominated by his majeſty; and, in the country, by the judge of aſſize, upon the next circuit, who ſhould hear and determine ſuch appeals in the moſt ſummary manner, without the formality of proceedings in courts of law or equity. This was the ſubſtance of the famous exciſe ſcheme, in favour of which Sir Robert Walpole moved, that the duties and ſubſidies on tobacco ſhould, from and after the 24th of January, ceaſe and determine. The debate which enſued was maintained by all the able ſpeakers on both ſides of the queſtion. Sir Robert Walpole was anſwered by Mr. Perry, member for the city of London. Sir Paul Methuen joined in the oppoſition. Sir John Barnard, another repreſentative of London, diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the ſame cauſe. He was ſupported by Mr. Pulteney, Sir William Wyndham, and others. Thoſe who oppoſed the ſcheme aſſerted, that it would involve the factors in

ſuch

ſuch hardſhips, that they would not be able to continue the trade: that it would be dangerous to the liberties of the ſubject, as it tended to promote a general exciſe: that it would produce an additional ſwarm of exciſe officers and warehouſe-keepers, appointed and paid by the treaſury; and, by multiplying the dependents of the crown, enable it ſtill farther to influence the freedom of elections; and that traders would become ſlaves to exciſemen and warehouſe-keepers. After a long and warm debate, the motion was carried by a majority of ſixty-one voices; and a bill was ordered to be brought in accordingly. This was done on the 4th of April, when it was read the firſt time, and ordered to be read a ſecond on the 11th; but the alarm was now ſpread to the moſt diſtant parts of the nation; the cry was, "Liberty and property, and no exciſe!" and, on the 10th of April, the ſheriffs, aldermen, and commons, of London, in a proceſſion of two hundred coaches, attended by great crouds on foot, went to Weſtminſter-hall with a petition, humbly praying to be heard by council againſt the bill: but this was carried in the negative by ſo ſmall a majority as ſeventeen. The next day petitions came from Coventry and Nottingham againſt the bill, which were ordered to lie upon the table. Meanwhile the populace blocked up all the avenues to the houſe of commons, inſulted thoſe members who had voted for the miniſtry on this occaſion; and Sir Robert began to be in fear of his life. He therefore thought proper to drop the deſign, by moving, that the ſecond reading of the bill ſhould be poſtponed till the 12th of June. The miſcarriage of this bill occaſioned the greateſt joy and ſatisfaction, and was celebrated with public rejoicings in London, Weſtminſter, and ſome of the principal towns in the kingdom; and, in the capital, Sir Robert was burned in effigy.

The king, by a meſſage to parliament, had ſignified

his intention to give the princeſs royal in marriage to the Prince of Orange, promiſing himſelf their concurrance and aſſiſtance, that he might be enabled to beſtow ſuch a portion with his eldeſt daughter as ſhould be ſuitable to the occaſion. The commons immediately reſolved, that, out of the monies ariſing from the ſale of lands in the iſland of St. Chriſtopher's, his majeſty ſhould be empowered to apply fourſcore thouſand pounds as a marriage dowry with his daughter; and a clauſe for this purpoſe was inſerted in the bill, for enabling his majeſty to apply five hundred thouſand pounds out of the ſinking-fund for the ſervice of the current year.

Europe was now re-involved in freſh troubles, by a vacancy on the throne of Poland. Auguſtus died at Warſaw in the end of January, and the neighbouring powers were immediately in commotion. The Elector of Saxony, ſon to the late king, and Staniſlaus, whoſe daughter was married to the French monarch, declared themſelves candidates for the Poliſh throne. The emperor, the czarina, and the King of Pruſſia, eſpouſed the intereſts of the Saxon: the King of France ſupported the pretenſions of his father-in-law. The foreign miniſters at Warſaw forthwith began to form intrigues among the electors: the Marquis de Monti, ambaſſador from France, exerted himſelf ſo ſucceſsfully, that he ſoon gained over the primate; and a majority of the Catholic dietines, to the intereſts of Staniſlaus; while the Imperial and Ruſſian troops hovered on the frontiers of Poland. The French king no ſooner underſtood that a body of the emperor's forces was encamped at Sileſia, than he ordered the Duke of Berwick to aſſemble an army on the Rhine, and take meaſures for entering Germany, in caſe the imperialiſts ſhould march into Poland. A French fleet ſet ſail for Dantzick, while Staniſlaus travelled through Germany in diſguiſe to Poland, and concealed himſelf in the houſe of the French ambaſſador

ſador at Warſaw. As the day of election approached, the Imperial, Ruſſian, and Pruſſian, miniſters delivered in their ſeveral declarations, by way of proteſt againſt the contingent election of Staniſlaus, as a perſon proſcribed, diſqualified, depending upon a foreign power, and connected with the Turks and other infidels. The Ruſſian General Laſci entered Poland at the head of fifty thouſand men: the diet of the election was opened with the uſual ceremony on the 25th of Auguſt. Prince Vieſazowiſki, chief of the Saxon intereſt, retired to the other ſide of the Viſtula, with three thouſand men, including ſome of the nobility who adhered to that party. Nevertheleſs, the primate proceeded to the election: Staniſlaus was unanimouſly choſen king; and appeared in the electoral field, where he was received with loud acclamation. The oppoſite party ſoon increaſed to ten thouſand men; proteſted againſt the election, and joined the Ruſſian army, which advanced by ſpeedy marches. King Staniſlaus, finding himſelf unable to cope with ſuch adverſaries, retired with the primate and French ambaſſador to Dantzick, leaving the Palatine of Kiow at Warſaw. This general attacked the Saxon palace, which was ſurrendered upon terms: then the ſoldiers and inhabitants plundered the houſes belonging to the grandees who had declared for Auguſtus, as well as the hotel of the Ruſſian miniſter. In the mean time, the Poles who had joined the Muſcovites, finding it impracticable to paſs the Viſtula before the expiration of the time fixed for the ſeſſion of the diet, erected a kolo at Cracow, where the Elector of Saxony was choſen and proclaimed, by the Biſhop of Cracow, King of Poland, under the name of Auguſtus III. on the 6th of October. They afterwards paſſed the river, and the Palatine of Kiow retiring towards Cracow, they took poſſeſſion of Warſaw, where in their turn they plundered the palaces and houſes belonging to the oppoſite party.

During

During theſe tranſactions, the French king concluded a treaty with Spain and Sardinia, by which thoſe powers agreed to declare war againſt the emperor. Manifeſtos were publiſhed reciprocally by all the contracting powers. The Duke of Berwick paſſed the Rhine in October, and undertook the ſiege of fort Kehl, which, in a few days, was ſurrendered on capitulation: then he repaſſed the river, and returned to Verſailles. The King of Sardinia, having declared war againſt the emperor, joined a body of French forces commanded by Mareſchal de Villars, and drove the imperialiſts out of the Milaneſe. His imperial majeſty, dreading the effects of ſuch a powerful confederacy againſt him, offered to compromiſe all differences with the crown of Spain under the mediation of the King of Great Britain; and Mr. Keene, the Britiſh miniſter at Madrid, propoſed an accommodation. Philip expreſſed his acknowledgements to the King of England, declaring, however, that the emperor's advances were too late; and that his own reſolutions were already taken. Nevertheleſs, he ſent orders to the Count de Montijo, his ambaſſador at London, to communicate to his Britannic majeſty the motives which had induced him to take theſe reſolutions. In the mean time he detached a powerful armament to Italy, where they inveſted the imperial fortreſs of Aula, the garriſon of which was obliged to ſurrender themſelves priſoners of war. The republic of Venice declared ſhe would take no ſhare in the diſputes of Italy: the States General ſigned a neutrality with the French king for the Auſtrian Netherlands, without conſulting the emperor or the King of Great Britain; and the Engliſh councils ſeemed to be altogether pacific.

About this time the Deal-caſtle man of war, Captain Aubin, took a Spaniſh merchantman near Campeachy, by way of repriſals, and carried her into South Carolina. On the other hand, in October, a Sallee

Sallee cruiſer, of eighteen guns, and one hundred and forty men, took and carried into that port an Engliſh ſhip of 180 tons and ten guns, called the Eagle, John Chilly, commander, richly laden with cloth, fine linen, and ſpices, having on-board ſixty-ſix Portugueſe paſſengers, beſides fourteen Engliſh. Upon intelligence of this capture, the Engliſh conſul at Tetuan ſet out immediately for Mequinez to ſolicit her releaſe; but, with ſo little ſucceſs, that a Jewiſh rabbi well ſkilled in the language, whom he took with him as his interpreter, labouring hard with the emperor to obtain it, was ordered to be burnt alive, and the conſul obliged to return without receiving any ſatisfaction.

The mal-treatment of the conſul at Sallee, and detention of the ſhip above mentioned, produced an order for three Engliſh frigates, of twenty guns each, to ſail to Barbary and demand her releaſement and farther ſatisfaction; but it was a conſiderable time before a ſtop could be put to their piracies, as will appear in the ſequel. In nine days after their weighing from Portſmouth, they arrived at Tetuan, viz. on the 12th of March, when the baſhaw ſent a meſſenger to Mequinez, to endeavour the procuring ſatisfaction; but the great obſtacle was the number of Portugueſe found on-board, who being made ſlaves, the emperor would by no means hear of releaſing them. Upon this, theſe frigates took their ſtation off that port, and, with ſome Dutch men of war, blocked it up, ſo that none of their rovers dared venture out to ſea. But notwithſtanding this precaution, a row-boat from Tetuan found means to get out of the harbour, and take the John of London, William Matthews, maſter, loaded with pipe-ſtaves, &c. from Amſterdam for Malaga. Beſides this, they took ten other veſſels during this and the following year, which they carried into their ports, and made the unfortunate companies of them ſlaves in Barbary.

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It will be proper here to ſpeak of the bravery of Captain David Fullerton, commander of an Engliſh merchantman, who, in his paſſage from the ſtreights, being met by a Sallee rover was obliged to bring to. The Sallee man ſent his boat on-board with twenty men, in order to ſeize the prize. But Captain Fullerton, obſerving the number, bravely reſolved, with his fourteen men, to attack and make himſelf maſter of them, as ſoon as they came on-board. This they executed with undaunted courage; and the Moors, judging by their reſolution that they had a greater number of hands on-board, threw down their arms and ſurrendered. Upon this, Captain Fullerton crowded all his ſail, got clear of the rover, and brought his priſoners to Middleburg, in Zealand.

Although Great Britain took no active part in the diſputes on the continent, yet it was thought proper to make great additions to the naval ſtrength of the kingdom: accordingly, early in the year 1734, eighty-ſix men of war from one hundred guns down to twenty were put into commiſſion. When the commons deliberated upon the ſupply, Mr. Andrews, deputy-paymaſter of the army, moved for an addition of eighteen hundred men to the number of land-forces which had been continued ſince the preceding year. The members in the oppoſition diſputed this ſmall augmentation with too much heat and eagerneſs. They could not, however, prevent the augmentation propoſed: but they reſolved, if they could not wholly ſtop the career of the miniſtry, to throw in ſuch a number of rubs as ſhould, at leaſt, retard their progreſs. The Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham had been deprived of the regiments they commanded, becauſe they refuſed to concur in every project of the adminiſtration. It was in conſequence of their diſmiſſion, that Lord Morpeth moved for a bill to prevent any commiſſion officer, not above the rank of a colonel, from being removed, unleſs by a court-martial, or by addreſs

addreſs of either houſe of parliament. Such an attack on the prerogative might have ſucceeded in the latter part of the reign of the firſt Charles; but at this juncture could not fail to miſcarry: yet it was ſuſtained with great vigour and addreſs. When the propoſal was ſet aſide by the majority, Mr. Sandys moved for an addreſs to the king, deſiring to know who adviſed his majeſty to remove the Duke of Bolton and Lord Cobham from their reſpective regiments. He was ſeconded by Mr. Pulteney and Sir William Wyndham: but the miniſtry, foreſeeing another tedious diſpute, called for the queſtion, and the motion was carried in the negative. The duty upon ſalt was prolonged for eight years; and a bill paſſed againſt ſtock-jobbing.

But the ſubject which of all others employed the eloquence and abilities on both ſides to the moſt vigorous exertion, was a motion made by Mr. Bromley, who propoſed that a bill ſhould be brought in for repealing the ſeptennial act, and for the more frequent meeting and calling of parliaments. The arguments for and againſt ſeptennial parliaments have been frequently repeated. The miniſtry now inſiſted upon the increaſe of papiſts and jacobites, which rendered it dangerous to weaken the hands of government: they challenged the oppoſition to produce one inſtance in which the leaſt encroachment had been made on the liberties of the people ſince the ſeptennial act took place. Sir John Hinde Cotton affirmed, that the ſeptennial law itſelf was an encroachment on the rights of the people: a law paſſed by a parliament that made itſelf ſeptennial. He obſerved, that the laws of treaſon with regard to trials were altered ſince that period: that in former times a man was tried by a jury of his neighbours, within the county where the crimes alleged againſt him were ſaid to be committed; but by an act of a ſeptennial parliament he might be removed and tried in any place where the crown, or rather the miniſtry, could find a jury proper for their

purpose; where the prisoner could not bring any witness in his justification, without an expence which perhaps his circumstances would not bear. He asked, if the riot act was not an encroachment on the rights of the people? An act by which a little dirty justice of the peace, the meanest and vilest tool a minister can use, who perhaps subsists by his being in the commission, and may be deprived of that subsistence at the pleasure of his patron, had it in his power to put twenty or thirty of the best subjects in England to immediate death, without any trial or form but that of reading a proclamation. "Was not the fatal South-Sea scheme (said he) established by the act of a septennial parliament? And can any man ask, whether that law was attended with any inconvenience? To the glorious catalogue I might have added the late excise bill, if it had passed into a law; but, thank heaven, the septennial parliament was near expiring before that famous measure was introduced." Notwithstanding the most warm, the most nervous, the most pathetic, remonstrances in favour of the motion, the question was put, and it was suppressed by mere dint of number.

The triumph of the ministry was still more complete in the success of a message delivered from the crown in the latter end of the session, when a great many members of the other party had retired to their respective habitations in the country. Sir Robert Walpole delivered this commission to the house, importing, that his majesty might be enabled to augment his forces, if occasion should require such an augmentation, between the dissolution of this parliament and the election of another. Such an important point, that was said to strike at the foundation of our liberties, was not tamely yielded; but, on the contrary, contested with uncommon ardour. The motion for taking the message into consideration was carried in the affirmative; and an address presented

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to the king, ſignifying their compliance with his deſire. In conſequence of a ſubſequent meſſage, they prepared and paſſed a bill, enabling his majeſty to ſettle an annuity of five thouſand pounds for life on the princeſs royal, as a mark of his paternal favour and affection.

The buſineſs of the ſeſſion being diſpatched, the king repaired to the houſe of lords on the 16th of April, and, having paſſed all the bills that were ready for the royal aſſent, took leave of this parliament, with the warmeſt acknowledgement of their zeal, duty, and affection. It was at firſt prorogued, then diſſolved, and another convoked by the ſame proclamation. On the 14th of March, the nuptials of the Prince of Orange and the Princeſs Royal were ſolemnized with great magnificence: and this match was attended with addreſſes of congratulation to his majeſty from different parts of the kingdom.

The powers at war upon the continent acted with ſurpriſing vigour. The Ruſſian and Saxon army inveſted the city of Dantzick, in hopes of ſecuring the perſon of King Staniſlaus. The town was ſtrong, the garriſon numerous, and, animated by the examples of the French and Poles, made a very obſtinate defence. For ſome time they were ſupplied by ſea with recruits, arms, and ammunition. On the 11th of May a reinforcement of fifteen hundred men was landed from two French ſhips of war and ſome tranſports, under Fort Wechſelmunde, which was ſo much in want of proviſions, that they were not admitted: they therefore re-embarked, and ſailed back to Copenhagen. But afterwards a large number were landed in the ſame place, and attacked the Ruſſian entrenchments, in order to force their way into the city. They were repulſed in this attempt, but retired in good order. At length the Ruſſian fleet arrived, under the command of Admiral Gordon; and now the ſiege was carried on with great fury. Fort

Weſchſelmunde was ſurrendered: the French troops capitulated, and were embarked in the Ruſſian ſhips, to be conveyed to ſome port in the Baltic. Staniſlaus eſcaped in the diſguiſe of a peaſant to Marienwarder, in the Pruſſian territories. The city of Dantzick ſubmitted to the dominion of Auguſtus III. King of Poland, and was obliged to defray the expence of the war to the Ruſſian general, Count de Munich, who had aſſumed the command after the ſiege was begun. The Poliſh lords at Dantzick ſigned an act of ſubmiſſion to King Auguſtus, who on the 10th of July arrived at the convent of Oliva. There a council was held in his preſence. The recuſant noblemen took the oath which he propoſed. Then a general amneſty was proclaimed; and the king ſet out on his return to Dreſden.

On the Rhine the French arms bore down all reſiſtance. Count Belleiſle beſieged and took Traerbach. The Duke of Berwick, at the head of ſixty thouſand men, inveſted Philipſburgh, while Prince Eugene was obliged to remain on the defenſive, in the ſtrong camp at Heilbron, waiting for the troops of the empire. On the 12th of June, the Duke of Berwick, in viſiting the trenches, was killed by a cannon-ball, and the command devolved upon the Marquis d'Asfeldt, who carried on the operations of the ſiege with equal vigour and capacity. Prince Eugene, being joined by the different reinforcements he expected, marched towards the French lines: but found them ſo ſtrong that he could not hazard an attack; and ſuch precautions were taken, that with all his military talents he could not relieve the beſieged. At length General Wathenau, the governor, capitulated, after having made a noble defence, and obtained the moſt honourable conditions. Prince Eugene retired to Heidelberg; and the campaign ended about the beginning of October.

The imperial arms were not more ſucceſsful in Italy.

Italy. The infant Don Carlos had received ſo many invitations from the Neapolitan nobility, that he reſolved to take poſſeſſion of that kingdom. He began his march in February, at the head of the Spaniſh forces; publiſhed a manifeſto, declaring he was ſent by his father to relieve the kingdom of Naples from the oppreſſion under which it groaned; and entered the capital amidſt the acclamations of the people; while the Count de Viſconti, the German viceroy, finding himſelf unable to cope with the invaders, thought proper to retire, after having thrown ſuccours into Gaeta and Capua. When he arrived at Nocera, he began to aſſemble the militia, with intent to form a camp at Barletta. The Count de Montemar marched with a body of forces againſt this general, and obtained over him a complete victory at Bitonto in Apuglia, on the 25th of May, when the Imperialiſts were entirely routed, and a great number of principal officers taken priſoners. Don Carlos being proclaimed, and acknowledged King of Naples, created the Count de Montemar Duke of Bitonto; reduced Gaeta, and all other parts of the kingdom which were garriſoned with imperial troops; and reſolved to ſubdue the iſland of Sicily. About twenty thouſand troops being deſtined for the expedition were landed in the road of Solanto in Auguſt, under the command of the new Duke of Bitonto, who, being favoured by the natives, proceeded in his conqueſts with great rapidity. The people acknowledged Don Carlos as their ſovereign, and took arms in ſupport of his government; ſo that the imperial troops were driven before them, and the Spaniards poſſeſſed the whole kingdom, except Meſſina, Syracuſe, and Trepani, when the infant determined to viſit the iſland in perſon.

While Don Carlos was thus employed in the conqueſt of Naples and Sicily, the Imperialiſts were hard preſſed in Lombardy by the united forces of France and Piedmont, commanded by the King of Sardinia and

and the old Marſhal Villars. In the month of January they undertook the ſiege of Tortona, which they reduced; while the troops of the emperor began to pour in great numbers into the Mantuan. In the beginning of May, Count Merci, who commanded them, paſſed the Po in the face of the allies, notwithſtanding all the ſkill of Villars, obliged him to retreat from the banks of that river, and took the caſtle of Colorno. The old French general, being taken ill, quitted the army, and retired to Turin, where in a little time he died; and the King of Sardinia retiring to the ſame place, the command of the allied forces devolved upon Marſhal Coigny. The confederates were poſted at Sanguina, and the Imperialiſts at Sorbola, when Count Merci made a motion to San Proſpero, as if he intended either to attack the enemy, or take poſſeſſion of Parma. Marſhal Coigny forthwith made a diſpoſition for an engagement: and, on the 29th of June, the imperial general, having paſſed the Parma, began the attack with great impetuoſity. He charged in perſon at the head of his troops, and was killed ſoon after the battle began. Nevertheleſs, the Prince of Wirtemberg aſſuming the command, both armies fought with great obſtinacy, from eleven in the forenoon till four in the afternoon, when the Imperialiſts retired towards Monte Cirugalo, leaving five thouſand men dead on the field of battle, and among theſe many officers of diſtinction. The loſs of the allies was very conſiderable, and they reaped no ſolid fruits from their victory. The imperial forces retreated to Reggio, and from thence moved to the plains of Carpi, on the right of Secchia, where they received ſome reinforcements; then General Count Konigſegg arriving in the camp, took upon himſelf the command of the army. His firſt ſtep was to take poſt at Quingentrola, by which motion he ſecured Mirandola, that was threatened with a ſiege. On the 15th of February

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he forded the river Secchia, and surprized the quarters of Marshal Broglio, who escaped in his shirt with great difficulty. The French retired with such precipitation, that they left all their baggage behind, and above two thousand were taken prisoners. They posted themselves under Guastalla, where, on the 19th of the month, they were vigorously attacked by the Imperialists, and a general engagement ensued. Konigsegg made several desperate efforts to break the French cavalry, upon which, however, he could make no impression. The infantry on both sides fought with uncommon ardour for six hours, and the field was covered with carnage. At length the imperial general retreated to Lazara, after having lost above five thousand men, including the Prince of Wirtemberg, the Generals Valpareze and Colminero, with many other officers of distinction: nor was the damage sustained by the French greatly inferior to that of the Germans, who repassed the Po, and took post on the banks of the Oglio. The allies crossed the same river, and the Marquis de Maillebois was sent with a detachment to attack Mirandola; but the Imperialists marching to the relief of the place, compelled him to abandon the enterprize: then he rejoined his army, which retired under the walls of Cremona, to wait for succours from Don Carlos.

So little respect did the French court pay to the British nation, at this juncture, that in the month of November an edict was published at Paris, commanding all the British subjects in France, who were not actually in employment, from the age of eighteen to fifty, to quit the kingdom in fifteen days, or inlist in some of the Irish regiments, on pain of being treated as vagabonds, and sent to the gallies. This edict was executed with the utmost rigour. The prisons of Paris were crowded with the subjects of Great Britain, who were surprized and cut off from

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all communication with their friends, and muſt have periſhed with cold and hunger, had not they been relieved by the active charity of the Janſeniſts. Earl Waldgrave, who then reſided at Paris, as an ambaſſador from Great Britain made ſuch vigorous remonſtrances to the French miniſtry, upon this unheard-of outrage againſt a nation with which they had been ſo long in alliance, that they thought proper to ſet the priſoners at liberty, and publiſh another edict, by which the meaning of the former was explained away.

While theſe tranſactions occurred on the continent, the King of Great Britain augmented his land forces; and warm conteſts were maintained through the whole united kingdom in electing new repreſentatives for the new parliament. But, in all theſe ſtruggles the miniſterial power predominated: and the new members appeared with the old complexion. The two houſes aſſembled on the 14th of January, 1734, and Mr. Onſlow was re-elected ſpeaker. The leaders of both parties in all debates were the ſelf-ſame perſons who had conducted thoſe of the former parliament; and the ſame meaſures were purſued in the ſame manner. The king, in his ſpeech at the opening of the ſeſſion, gave them to underſtand, that he had concerted with the States-General of the United Provinces ſuch meaſures as were thought moſt adviſeable for their common ſafety, and for reſtoring the peace of Europe: that in a ſhort time a plan would be offered to the conſideration of all parties engaged in the war, as a baſis for a general negociation of peace. He obſerved, that whilſt many of the principal powers of Europe were actually engaged in a war, Great Britain muſt be more or leſs affected with the conſequences; and, therefore, expreſſed his hope, that his good ſubjects would not repine at the neceſſary means of procuring the bleſſings of peace and univerſal tranquillity, or of putting him in a condition to act that part which it might be neceſſary and incumbent

incumbent upon him to take. The addreſs of thanks produced a diſpute as uſual, which ended with an acquieſcence in the motion. The houſe, in a grand committee on the ſupply, reſolved, that thirty thouſand ſeamen ſhould be employed for the ſervice of the enſuing year; and that the land-forces ſhould be augmented to the number of twenty-five thouſand ſeven hundred and forty-four effective men. But theſe reſolutions were not taken without diſpute and diviſion. The miniſter's opponents not only reproduced all the reaſons which had been formerly advanced againſt a ſtanding army, but they oppoſed this augmentation with extraordinary ardour, as a huge ſtride towards the eſtabliſhment of arbitrary power. They refuted thoſe fears of external broils on which the miniſtry pretended to ground the neceſſity of ſuch augmentation; and they expoſed the weak conduct of the adminiſtration, in having contributed to deſtroy the balance of power, by aſſiſting Spain againſt the emperor in Italy, ſo as to aggrandize the houſe of Bourbon.

The ſeſſion was cloſed on the 15th of May, when the king, in his ſpeech to both houſes, declared, that the plan of pacification concerted between him and the States-General had not produced the deſired effect. He thanked the commons for the ſupplies they had granted with ſuch chearfulneſs and diſpatch. He ſignified his intention to viſit his German dominions; and told them he ſhould conſtitute the queen regent of the realm in his abſence. Immediately after the prorogation, his majeſty embarked for Holland, in his way to Hanover.

By this time the good underſtanding between the courts of Madrid and Liſbon was deſtroyed by a remarkable incident. The Portugueſe ambaſſador at Madrid having allowed his ſervants to reſcue a criminal from the officers of juſtice, all the ſervants concerned in the reſcue were dragged from the houſe

to prison, by the Spanish king's order, with circumstances of rigour and disgrace. His Portuguese majesty being informed of this outrage, ordered reprisals to be made upon the servants of the Spanish ambassador in Lisbon. The two ministers withdrew abruptly to their respective courts. The two monarchs expressed their mutual resentment. The King of Spain assembled a body of troops on the frontiers of Portugal; and his Portuguese majesty had recourse to the assistance of King George. Don Marcos Antonio d'Alzeveda was dispatched to London, with the character of envoy extraordinary; and succeeded in his commission according to his wish. In a little time after the king's departure from England, Sir John Norris sailed from Spithead with a powerful squadron, in order to protect the Portuguese against the Spaniards; and, on the 9th of June, arrived at Lisbon, where he was welcomed as a deliverer. Mr. Keene, the British envoy at the court of Spain, had communicated to his catholic majesty, the resolution of his master to send a powerful squadron to Lisbon, with orders to guard that coast from insults, and secure the Brazil fleet, in which the merchants of Great Britain were deeply interested. Don Joseph Patinno, minister of his catholic majesty, delivered a memorial to Mr. Keene, representing, that such an expedition would affect the commerce of Spain, by intimidating foreign merchants from embarking their merchandize in the flota. But, in all probability, it prevented a rupture between the two crowns, and disposed the King of Spain to listen to terms of accommodation.

The powers in alliance against the house of Austria, having rejected the plan of pacification concerted by the King of Great Britain and the States-General, Mr. Walpole, ambassador at the Hague, presented a memorial to their high mightinesses, desiring they would, without loss of time, put themselves

ſelves in a poſture of defence, by an augmentation of their forces at ſea and land; that they might take ſuch vigorous ſteps, in concert with Great Britain, as the future conjuncture of affairs might require. But, before they would ſubject themſelves to ſuch expence, they reſolved to make further trial of their influence with the powers in alliance againſt the emperor: and conferences were renewed with the miniſters of thoſe allies.

The affairs of Poland became more and more unfavourable to the intereſt of Staniſlaus; for though a great number of the Poliſh nobility engaged in a confederacy to ſupport his claim, and made repeated efforts in his behalf, the Palatine of Kiow ſubmitted to Auguſtus; and even his brother the primate, after having ſuſtained a long impriſonment, and many extraordinary hardſhips, was obliged to acknowledge that prince as his ſovereign.

In Italy the arms of the allies ſtill continued to proſper. Don Carlos landed in Sicily, and reduced the whole iſland, almoſt without oppoſition; while the Imperialiſts were forced to abandon all the territories they poſſeſſed in Italy, except the Mantuan. The emperor, being equally unable to cope with the French armies on the Rhine, implored ſuccours of the czarina, who ſent thirty thouſand men to his aſſiſtance. This interpoſition, and the ſucceſs of Auguſtus in Poland, diſpoſed the court of Verſailles to a pacification. A ſecret negociation was begun between France and the houſe of Auſtria; and the preliminaries were ſigned without the concurrence or knowledge of Spain, Sardinia, and the maritime powers. In theſe articles it was ſtipulated, that France ſhould reſtore all the conqueſts ſhe had made in Germany: that the reverſion of the dukedom of Tuſcany ſhould be veſted in the Duke of Lorraine: that Lorraine ſhould be allotted to King Staniſlaus; and after his death be united to the

crown of France: that the emperor ſhould poſſeſs the Milaneſe, the Mantuan, and Parma: that the King of Sardinia ſhould enjoy Vigevano and Novara: that Don Carlos ſhould be acknowledged King of Naples and Sicily, and retain the iſland of Elba, with all the Spaniſh territories on the coaſt of Tuſcany; and that France ſhould guarantee the pragmatic ſanction.

The King of Great Britain returned from Hanover to England in the month of November; and on the 15th of January, 1736, opened the ſeſſion of parliament. On this occaſion he congratulated them on the near proſpect of a general peace in Europe, in conſequence of the preliminary articles in which the emperor and the King of France had agreed; and of which he had expreſſed his approbation, as they did not differ in any eſſential point from the plan of pacification, which he and the States-General had offered to the belligerent powers. He told them, that he had already ordered a conſiderable reduction to be made in his forces both by ſea and land; but at the ſame time obſerved it would be neceſſary to continue ſome extraordinary expence, until a more perfect reconciliation ſhould be eſtabliſhed among the ſeveral powers of Europe. An addreſs of thanks was unanimouſly voted, and graciouſly received. After the houſe had received ſeveral petitions from different gentlemen, complaining of undue influence in elections, it proceeded to conſider of the ſupply; and, Sir Charles Wager moving that fifteen thouſand ſeamen ſhould be employed for the ſervice of the enſuing year, the propoſal was approved without oppoſition.

In the month of February the king ſent two members of the privy-council to the Prince of Wales, with a meſſage, propoſing a marriage between his royal highneſs and the Princeſs of Saxe Gotha. The propoſal being agreeable to the prince, the marriage was

was celebrated on the 27th of April. Upon this occasion Mr. Pulteney moved for an address of congratulation to his majesty, and was supported by Mr. George Lyttleton and Mr. William Pitt, who seized this opportunity of pronouncing elegant panegyrics on the Prince of Wales and his amiable consort. These two young members soon distinguished themselves in the house by their eloquence and superior talents. In this session the parliament repealed the old statutes of England and Scotland against conjuration, witchcraft, and dealing with evil spirits. Among the acts passed in this session was one for naturalizing her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; and another for building a bridge across the Thames, from New Palace Yard, in the city of Westminster, to the opposite shore in the county of Surry. On the 20th of May the king closed the session with a speech, in which he signified his intention to visit his German dominions. Accordingly, the parliament was no sooner prorogued than he set out for Hanover, after having appointed the queen regent in his absence.

Such a degree of licentiousness prevailed over the whole nation, that the kingdom was filled with tumult and riots, which might have been prevented by proper regulations of the civil government, in a due execution of the laws. The most remarkable of these disturbances happened at Edinburgh, on the 7th of September. John Porteous, who commanded the guard paid by that city, had, at the execution of a smuggler, been provoked by some insults from the populace to order his men, without using the previous formalities of the law, to fire with shot among the crowd, by which precipitate order several innocent persons lost their lives. Porteous was tried for murder, convicted, and received sentence of death; but the queen, as guardian of the realm, thought proper to indulge him with a reprieve. The common people of Edinburgh resented this lenity shewn to a criminal,

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who was the object of their deteſtation. They remembered that pardons had been granted to divers military delinquents in that country, who had been condemned by legal trial. They ſeemed to think thoſe were encouragements to oppreſſion: they were fired by a national jealouſy: they were ſtimulated by the relations and friends of thoſe who had been murdered; and they reſolved to wreak their vengeance on the author of that tragedy, by depriving him of life on the very day which the judges had fixed for his execution. Thus determined, they aſſembled in different bodies, about ten o'clock at night. They blocked up the gates of the city, to prevent the admiſſion of the troops that were quartered in the ſuburbs. They ſurprized and diſarmed the town-guards: they broke open the priſon-doors; dragged Porteous from thence to the place of execution; and, leaving him hanging by the neck on a dyer's pole, quietly diſperſed to their ſeveral habitations. This exploit was performed with ſuch conduct and deliberation as ſeemed to be the reſult of a plan formed by ſome perſons of conſequence: it therefore became the object of a very ſerious enquiry.

During this ſummer a rupture happened between the Turks and Ruſſians, which laſt reduced the city of Azoph, on the Black Sea, and over-ran the greateſt part of Crim Tartary. The czarina declared war againſt the Ottoman Porte, becauſe the Tartars of the Crimea had made incurſions upon her frontiers; and when ſhe complained of theſe diſorders to the vizier, ſhe received no ſatisfaction: beſides, a large body of Tartars had, by order of that miniſter, marched through the Ruſſian provinces in deſpite of the empreſs, and committed terrible havock in their route. The emperor was obliged to engage as a party in this war, by a treaty, offenſive and defenſive, which he had many years before concluded with the czarina. Yet, before he declared himſelf, he joined the maritime powers,

powers, in offering his mediation to the ſultan, who was very well diſpoſed to peace; but the czarina inſiſted upon retaining Azoph, which her forces had reduced; and this preliminary article being rejected, as diſhonourable to the Ottoman empire, the court of Vienna began to make preparations for war. By this time all the belligerent powers in Italy had agreed to the preliminaries of peace concluded between the emperor and France. The Duke of Lorraine had eſpouſed the emperor's eldeſt daughter, the Archduchess Maria Thereſa, and ceded Lorraine to France, even before he ſucceeded to Tuſcany. Don Carlos was crowned King of Sicily; Staniſlaus abdicated the crown of Poland, and Auguſtus was univerſally acknowledged ſovereign of that kingdom. The preliminaries were approved and accepted by the diet of the empire; the King of Spain ſent orders for his troops to evacuate Tuſcany; and the provinces in Italy yielded to the houſe of Auſtria. Prince Eugene, who had managed the intereſts of the emperor on this occaſion, did not live to ſee the fruits of his negociation. He died at Vienna, in April, at the age of ſeventy-three, leaving behind him the character of an invincible hero and conſummate politician. He was not long ſurvived by Count Staremberg, another imperial general, who ranked next to the prince in military reputation. About the ſame time Great Britain ſuſtained a national loſs in the death of Lord-chancellor Talbot, who, by his worth, probity, and acquired accompliſhments, had dignified the great office to which he had been raiſed. He died univerſally lamented, in the month of February, at the age of fifty-two; and was ſucceeded on the bench by Lord Hardwicke.

The king being indiſpoſed, in conſequence of having been fatigued by a very tempeſtuous paſſage from Holland, the parliament was prorogued from the 21ſt of January, 1737, to the 1ſt of February, and then the ſeſſion was opened by commiſſion. The lord-

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chancellor made a ſpeech, in his majeſty's name, to both houſes. With reſpect to foreign affairs, he told them, that the reſpective acts of ceſſion being exchanged, and orders given for the evacuation and poſſeſſion of the ſeveral countries and places, by the powers concerned, according to the allotment and diſpoſition of the preliminary articles, the great work of re-eſtabliſhing the general tranquillity was far advanced: that, however, common prudence called upon them to be very attentive to the final concluſion of the new ſettlement. After the commons had agreed to an addreſs, and heard counſel on ſome controverted elections, they proceeded to take the ſupply into conſideration. They voted ten thouſand men for the ſea-ſervice. They continued for the land-ſervice the ſame number they had maintained in times of tranquillity, amounting to ſeventeen thouſand ſeven hundred and four; but this meaſure was not adopted without oppoſition; the money was raiſed by the land and malt-taxes, reinforced with one million granted out of the ſinking-fund.

The chief ſubject of contention, in the courſe of this ſeſſion, was a motion which Mr Pulteney made for an addreſs to his majeſty, that he would be pleaſed to ſettle 100,000l. a-year upon the Prince of Wales, inſtead of 50,000l. which he then enjoyed. He repreſented that ſuch proviſion was conformable to the practice of ancient times: that what he propoſed had been enjoyed by his preſent majeſty in the life-time of his father; and that a ſettlement of this nature was reaſonable and neceſſary, to aſcertain the independence of the apparent heir to the crown. The motion was oppoſed by Sir Robert Walpole, as an encroachment on the prerogative; as an officious intermeddling in the king's family affairs: and as an effort to ſet his majeſty and the prince at variance. But a miſunderſtanding, it ſeems, had already happened in the royal family. Sir Robert Walpole endeavoured

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to demonſtrate, that the annual ſum of 50,000l. was as much as the king could afford to allow for the prince's maintenance; and he expatiated upon the bad conſequences that might enſue, if the ſon ſhould be rendered altogether independent of the father.

Theſe ſuggeſtions did not paſs unanſwered. The ſupporters of the motion obſerved, that the allowance of fifty thouſand pounds was not ſufficient to defray the prince's yearly expence, without allotting one ſhilling for acts of charity and munificence; and that the ſeveral deductions for land-taxes and fees reduced it to 43,000l. They affirmed, that his whole income, including the revenues of the duchy of Cornwall, did not exceed 52,000l. a-year, though, by his majeſty's own regulation, the expence of the prince's houſehold amounted to 63,000l. The motion was, however, rejected by the majority; though in the ſame ſeſſion an act was paſſed for ſettling 50,000 a-year on the Princeſs of Wales.

The next remarkable conteſt was occaſioned by a motion of Sir Robert Walpole, who propoſed the ſum of 1,000,000l. ſhould be granted to his majeſty, towards redeeming the like ſum of the increaſed capital of the South-Sea company, commonly called South-Sea annuities. Several members argued for the expediency of applying this ſum to the payment of the debt due to the Bank, as part of that incumbrance was ſaddled with an intereſt of ſix per cent. whereas the intereſt paid for the other ſums that conſtituted the public debt did not exceed four per cent. Many plauſible arguments were offered on both ſides of the queſtion; and at length the motion was carried in the affirmative. The houſe having reſolved itſelf into a committee to conſider of the national debt, Sir John Barnard made a motion for enabling his majeſty to raiſe money either by the ſale of annuities or by borrowing intereſt not exceeding three per cent. to be applied towards redeeming the South-Sea annu-

ities; and that such of the said annuitants as should be inclined to subscribe their respective annuities, should be preferred to all others. He said, that even those public securities which bore an interest of three per cent. only were sold at a premium in 'Change Alley: he was, therefore, persuaded, that all those who were willing to give a premium for a three per cent. security would gladly lend their money to the government at the same interest, should books of subscription be opened for that purpose, with an assurance that no part of the principal should be paid off for fourteen years. He expatiated upon the national advantages that would accrue from a reduction of interest. From easy and obvious calculations he inferred, that in a very little time the interest upon all the South-Sea annuities would be reduced from four to three per cent. without any danger to public credit, or breach of public faith: that then the produce of the sinking-fund would amount to 140,000l. per annum, to be applied only towards redeeming the capital of the several trading companies: he proved that this measure would bring every one of them so much within the power of parliament, that they would be glad to accept of three per cent. interest on any reasonable terms; in which case the sinking-fund would rise to 1,600,000 per annum. Then the parliament might venture to annihilate one-half of it, by freeing the people from the taxes upon coals, candles, soap, leather, and other such impositions as lay heavy upon the poor labourers and manufacturers: the remaining part of the sinking-fund might be applied towards the discharge of those annuities and public debts which bore an interest of three per cent. only, and afterwards towards diminishing the capitals of the several trading companies till the term of fourteen years should be expired; then the sinking-fund would again amount to above a million yearly, which would be sufficient for paying them off,

off, and freeing the nation entirely from all its incumbrances. This ſalutary ſcheme was violently oppoſed by Alderman Heathcote, and other partiſans of the miniſtry; yet all their objections were refuted; and, in order to defeat the project, they were obliged to have recourſe to artifice. Mr. Winnington moved, that all the public creditors, as well as the South-Sea annuitants, ſhould be comprehended. Sir John Barnard demonſtrated, that it might be eaſy for the government to borrow money at three per cent. ſufficient for paying off ſuch of the proprietors of four-and-twenty millions as were not willing to accept of that intereſt, but it would be extremely difficult to borrow enough to ſatisfy the proprietors of four-and-forty millions, who might chooſe to have their principal rather than ſuch an intereſt. Nevertheleſs, reſolutions were founded on this and other alterations of the original ſcheme; and a bill was immediately prepared. It produced many other debates, and was at laſt poſtponed by dint of miniſterial influence. The ſame venerable patriot, who projected this ſcheme, moved that as ſoon as the intereſt of all the national redeemable debt ſhould be reduced to three per cent. the houſe would take off ſome of the heavy taxes which oppreſſed the poor and the manufacturers: but this motion was rejected by the majority.

The laſt diſputes of this ſeſſion were excited by a bill for puniſhing the magiſtrates and city of Edinburgh, on account of the murder of John Porteous. Lord Carteret inſiſted upon the atrocious murder of Captain Porteous as a flagrant inſult upon the government, and a violation of the public peace, ſo much the more dangerous, as it ſeemed to have been concerted and executed with deliberation and decency. He ſuſpected that ſome citizens of Edinburgh had been concerned in the murder, not only from this circumſtance, but likewiſe becauſe, notwithſtanding the reward of 200l. which had been

offered by proclamation for the diſcovery of any perſon who acted in that tragedy, not one individual had as yet been detected. A bill was brought in to diſable Alexander Wilſon, Eſq. lord provoſt of Edinburgh, from enjoying any office or place of magiſtracy in the city of Edinburgh, or elſewhere in Great Britain; for impriſoning the ſaid Alexander Wilſon; for aboliſhing the guard of that city; and for taking away the gates of the Nether Bow-Port, ſo as to open a communication between the city and the ſuburbs, in which the king's troops are quartered. The bill was ſent down to the commons, who ſet on foot a ſevere ſcrutiny into the particular circumſtances that preceded and attended the murder. From the examination of the witneſſes it appeared that no freeman or citizen of Edinburgh was concerned in the riot, which was chiefly compoſed of country people, excited by the relations of ſome unhappy perſons whom Porteous and his men had ſlain at the execution of the ſmuggler: and theſe were aſſiſted by 'prentice boys, and the loweſt claſs of vagabonds that happened to be at Edinburgh: that the lord provoſt had taken all the precautions to prevent miſchief that his reflexion ſuggeſted: that he even expoſed his perſon to the rage of the multitude, in his endeavours to diſperſe them; and that, if he had done amiſs, he erred from want of judgment, rather than from the want of inclination to protect the unhappy Porteous. The Scottiſh members exerted themſelves with uncommon vivacity in defence of their capital. Lord Polwarth declared, that, if any gentleman would ſhew where one argument in the charge againſt the lord provoſt and the city of Edinburgh had been proved, he would that inſtant give his vote for the commitment of the bill. He ſaid, if gentlemen would lay their hands on their hearts, and aſk themſelves whether they would have voted in this manner had the caſe of Edinburgh been that of the city of Briſtol, York, or Norwich, he

he was perſuaded they would have required that every tittle of the charge againſt them ſhould have been fully and undeniably proved. Some amendments and mitigations being inſerted in the bill, it paſſed the houſe, was ſent back to the lords, who agreed to the alterations, and then received the royal aſſent. On the 21ſt of June the king made a ſhort ſpeech to both houſes, and the lord chancellor prorogued the parliament.

A congreſs had been opened at Niemerow, in Poland, to compromiſe the differences between the czarina and the grand ſignior; but this proving ineffectual, the emperor declared war againſt the Turks, and demanded aſſiſtance from the diet of the empire. He concerted the operations of the campaign with the Empreſs of Muſcovy. It was agreed that the Imperialiſts, under Count Seckendorff, ſhould attack Widin in Servia, whilſt the Ruſſians, commanded by Count Munich, ſhould penetrate to the Ukraine, and beſiege Oczakow, on the Boriſthenes. They accordingly advanced againſt this place, which was garriſoned by twenty thouſand men; and, on the ſide of the Boriſthenes defended by eighteen gallies. The Muſcovites carried on their approaches with ſuch impetuoſity and perſeverance, that the Turks were terrified at their valour, and in a few days capitulated. Among thoſe who ſignalized themſelves by uncommon marks of proweſs in theſe attacks, was General Keith, now field-marſhal in the Pruſſian ſervice, who was dangerouſly wounded on this occaſion. Meanwhile Count Seckendorff, finding it impoſſible to reduce Widin without a ſquadron of ſhips on the Danube, turned his arms againſt Niſſa, which was ſurrendered to him on the 28th of July; but this was the fartheſt verge of his good fortune. The Turks attacked the poſt which the Imperialiſts occupied along the Danube. They took the fort of Padudil, burned the town of Ilas in Wallachia, and plundered

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the neighbouring villages. The Prince of Saxe Hilburghauſen, who had inveſted Bagnalack in Boſnia, was defeated, and obliged to repaſs the Saave. Count Seckendorf was recalled to Vienna; and the command of the army devolved upon Count Philippi. Count Kevenhuller was obliged to retreat from Servia; and Niſſa was retaken by the Muſſulmen. The conferences at Niemerow were broken off; and the Turkiſh plenipotentiaries returned to Conſtantinople.

Poland now enjoyed perfect repoſe under the dominion of Auguſtus. Ferdinand, the old Duke of Courland, dying without iſſue, the ſucceſſion was diſputed by the Teutonic order and the kingdom of Poland, while the ſtates of Courland claimed a right of election, and ſent deputies to Peterſburgh, imploring the protection of the czarina. A body of Ruſſian troops immediately entered that country: and the ſtates elected the Count de Biron, high chamberlain to the Empreſs of Muſcovy. The Elector of Cologn, as grand maſter of the Teutonic order, proteſted againſt this election: but the King of Poland agreed to it, on certain conditions ſettled at Dantzic with the commiſſaries of the new duke and thoſe of the czarina. In the month of July, John Gaſton de Medicis, great duke of Tuſcany, died at Florence; and the Prince de Craon took poſſeſſion of his territories, in the name of the Duke of Lorraine, to whom the emperor had already granted the eventual inveſtiture of that duchy.

In England, the attention of the public was attracted by an open breach in the royal family. The Princeſs of Wales had advanced to the very laſt month of her pregnancy before the king and queen were informed of her being with child. She was twice conveyed from Hampton-court to St. James's when her labour-pains were ſuppoſed to be approaching; and at length was delivered of a princeſs about

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two hours after her arrival. The king, being apprised of this event, sent a message to the prince, expressing his displeasure at the conduct of his royal highness, as an indignity offered to himself and the queen; and to inform him, that the whole tenor of his conduct, for a considerable time, had been so entirely void of all real duty, that his majesty had reason to be highly offended with him. He gave him to understand, that, until he should withdraw his regard and confidence from those by whose instigation and advice he was directed and encouraged in his unwarrantable behaviour to his majesty and the queen, and return to his duty, he should not reside in the palace; he, therefore, signified his pleasure that he should leave St. James's, with all his family, when it could be done without prejudice or inconvenience to the princess. In obedience to this order, the prince retired to Kew. Whatever might have been his design in concealing so long from the king and queen the pregnancy of the princess, and afterwards hurrying her from place to place in such a condition, to the manifest hazard of her life, his majesty had certainly cause to be offended at this part of his conduct: though the punishment seems to have been severe, if not rigorous; for he was not even admitted into the presence of the queen his mother, to express his duty to her, in her last moments, to implore her forgiveness, and receive her last blessing. Queen Caroline died of a mortification in her bowels, on the 20th of November, 1737, in the fifty-fifth year of her age, regretted as a princess of uncommon sagacity, and as a pattern of conjugal virtue.

The king opened the session of parliament on the 24th of January, 1738, with a short speech, recommending the dispatch of the public business with prudence and unanimity. Each house presented a warm address of condolence on the queen's death, with which he seemed to be extremely affected. Though

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the commons ſympathiſed with the king in his affliction, the miniſter ſtill met with contradiction in ſome of his favourite meaſures. One would imagine that all the arguments for and againſt a ſtanding army in time of peace had been already exhauſted; but, when it was moved that the ſame number of land-forces which they had voted in the preceding year ſhould be continued in pay for the enſuing year, the diſpute was renewed with ſurpriſing vivacity, and produced ſome reaſons which had not been ſuggeſted before. The adherents of the miniſter fairly owned, that if the army ſhould be diſbanded, or even conſiderably reduced, they believed the tory intereſt would prevail: that the preſent number of forces was abſolutely neceſſary to maintain the peace of the kingdom, which was filled with clamour and diſcontent, as well as to ſupport the whig intereſt. The members in the oppoſition replied, that this declaration was a ſevere ſatire on the miniſtry, whoſe conduct had given birth to ſuch a ſpirit of diſcontent. They ſaid it was in effect a tacit acknowledgment, that what they called the whig intereſt was no more than an inconſiderable party, which had engroſſed the adminiſtration by indirect methods; which acted contrary to the ſenſe of the nation; and depended for ſupport upon a military power, by which the people in general were overawed, and conſequently enſlaved. They affirmed, that the diſcontent of which the miniſtry complained was in a great meaſure owing to that very ſtanding army, which perpetuated their taxes, and hung over their heads as the inſtruments of arbitrary power and oppreſſion. The miniſtry triumphed as uſual, and the ſame number of forces was continued.

Ever ſince the treaty of Seville, the Spaniards in America had almoſt inceſſantly inſulted and diſtreſſed the commerce of Great Britain. They diſputed the right of Engliſh traders to cut logwood

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in the bay of Campeachy, and gather ſalt on the iſland of Tortugas; though that right was acknowledged by implication in all the treaties which had been lately concluded between the two nations. The captains of their armed veſſels, known by the name of guarda-coſtas, had made a practice of boarding and plundering Britiſh ſhips, on pretence of ſearching for contraband commodities, on which occaſions they had behaved with the utmoſt inſolence, cruelty, and rapine. Some of their ſhips of war had actually attacked a fleet of Engliſh merchant ſhips at the iſland of Tortugas, as if they had been at open enmity with England. They had ſeized and detained a great number of Britiſh veſſels, impriſoned their crews, and confiſcated their cargoes, in violation of treaties, in defiance of common juſtice and humanity. Repeated memorials were preſented to the court of Spain, by the Britiſh ambaſſador at Madrid. He was amuſed with evaſive anſwers, vague promiſes of enquiry, and cedulas of inſtructions ſent to the Spaniſh governors in America, to which they paid no ſort of regard. Not but that the Spaniards had reaſon to complain, in their turn, of the illicit commerce which the Engliſh traders from Jamaica and other iſlands carried on with their ſubjects on the continent of South America: though this could not juſtify the depredations and cruelties which the commanders of the guarda-coſtas had committed, without provocation or pretence. The merchants of England loudly complained of theſe outrages: the nation was fired with reſentment, and cried for vengeance; but Walpole knew that a war would involve him in ſuch difficulties as muſt of neceſſity endanger his adminiſtration: the treaſure which he now employed for domeſtic purpoſes, muſt in that caſe be expended in military armaments: the wheels of that machine on which he had raiſed his influence would no longer move: the oppoſition would of conſequence gain

ground, and the impoſition of freſh taxes, neceſſary for the maintenance of the war, would fill up the meaſure of popular reſentment againſt his perſon and miniſtry. Moved by theſe conſiderations, he induſtriouſly endeavoured to avoid a rupture, and to obtain ſome ſort of ſatisfaction by dint of memorials and negotiations, in which he betrayed his own fears to ſuch a degree, as animated the Spaniards to perſiſt in their depredations, and encouraged the court of Madrid to diſregard the remonſtrances of the Britiſh ambaſſador. But his apprehenſion of war did not proceed from Spain only: the two branches of the houſe of Bourbon were now united by politics, as well as by conſanguinity; and he did not doubt, that, in caſe of a rupture with Spain, they would join their forces againſt Great Britain. Petitions were delivered to the houſe by merchants from different parts of the kingdom, explaining the repeated violences to which they had been expoſed, and imploring relief of the parliament. Theſe were referred to a committee of the whole houſe; and an order was made to admit the petitioners, if they ſhould think fit, to be heard by themſelves or by counſel. Sir John Barnard moved for an addreſs to the king, that all the memorials and papers relating to the Spaniſh depredations ſhould be laid before the houſe; and this, with ſome alteration propoſed by Sir Robert Walpole, was actually preſented. In compliance with the requeſt, an enormous multitude of letters and memorials was produced.

The houſe, in a grand committee, proceeded to hear counſel for the merchants, and examine evidence; by which it appeared, that amazing acts of wanton cruelty and injuſtice had been perpetrated by Spaniards on the ſubjects of Great Britain. Mr. Pulteney expatiated upon theſe circumſtances of barbarity. He demonſtrated from treaties, the rights of the Britiſh traders to the logwood of Campeachy, and

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to the ſalt of Tortugas: he expoſed the puſillanimity of the miniſter, and the futility of his negotiations: he moved for ſuch reſolutions as would evince the reſentment of an injured nation, and the vigour of a Britiſh parliament. Theſe were warmly combated by Sir Robert Walpole, who affirmed, they would cramp the miniſters in their endeavours to compromiſe theſe differences: that they would fruſtrate their negotiations, entrench upon the king's prerogative, and precipitate the nation into an unneceſſary and expenſive war. Anſwers produced replies, and a general debate enſued. A reſolution was reported; but the queſtion being put for re-committing it, was carried in the negative. The houſe, however, agreed to an addreſs, beſeeching his majeſty to uſe his endeavours to obtain effectual relief for his injured ſubjects, to convince the court of Spain that his majeſty could no longer ſuffer ſuch conſtant and repeated inſults and injuries to be carried on, to the diſhonour of his crown, and to the ruin of his trading ſubjects; and aſſuring him, that in caſe his royal and friendly inſtances with the catholic king ſhould miſcarry, the houſe would effectually ſupport his majeſty in taking ſuch meaſures as honour and juſtice ſhould make it neceſſary for him to purſue. To this addreſs the king made a favourable anſwer.—The parliament was prorogued on the 20th of May.

On the 4th of June, 1738, the Princeſs of Wales was delivered of a ſon, who was baptiſed by the name of George, now King of Great Britain. His birth was celebrated with uncommon rejoicings: addreſſes of congratulation were preſented to the king by the two univerſities, and by almoſt all the cities and communities of the kingdom. But the Prince of Wales ſtill laboured under the diſpleaſure of his majeſty, who had ordered the lord chamberlain to ſignify in the gazette, that no perſon who viſited the prince ſhould be admitted to the court of St. James's.

His royal highneſs was diveſted of all the external marks of royalty, and lived like a private gentleman, cultivating the virtues of a ſocial life, and enjoying the beſt fruits of conjugal felicity.

In the latter end of this month, Rear-admiral Haddock ſet ſail with a ſtrong ſquadron for the Mediterranean, which it was hoped would give weight to the negotiation of the Britiſh miniſter at the court of Madrid.

The war maintained by the emperor and the czarina, againſt the Ottoman Porte, had not yet produced any deciſive event. Count Seckendorf was diſgraced and confined, on account of the ill ſucceſs of the laſt campaign. General Doxat was tried by a council of war at Belgrade, and condemned to death, for having ſurrendered to the enemy the town of Niſſa, in which he commanded. The diet of the empire granted a ſubſidy of fifty Roman months to the emperor, who began to make vigorous preparations for the enſuing campaign: but, in the mean time, Ragotſki, vaivode of Tranſylvania, revolved againſt the houſe of Auſtria, and brought a conſiderable army into the field, under the protection of the grand ſignor. He was immediately proclaimed a rebel, and a price ſet upon his head by the court of Vienna. The Turks, taking the field early, reduced the fort of Uſitza and Meadi, and undertook the ſiege of Orſova, which, however, they abandoned at the approach of the imperial army, commanded by the Grand Duke of Tuſcany, aſſiſted by Count Konigſegg. The Turks, being reinforced, marched back, and attacked the Imperialiſts, by whom they were repulſed after an obſtinate engagement. The Germans, notwithſtanding this advantage, repaſſed the Danube; and then the infidels made themſelves maſters of Orſova, where they found a fine train of artillery, deſigned for the ſiege of Widin. By the conqueſt of this place, the Turks laid the Danube open to their gallies

gallies and veſſels; and the Germans retired under the cannon of Belgrade. In the Ukraine, the Ruſſians under General Count Munich obtained the advantage over the Turks in two engagements; and General Lacy routed the Tartars of the Crimea: but they returned in greater numbers, and harraſſed the Muſcovites in ſuch a manner, by intercepting their proviſions, and deſtroying the country, that they were obliged to abandon the lines of Precops.

In the month of October, an affair of very ſmall importance produced a rupture between the King of Denmark and the Elector of Hanover. A detachment of Hanoverians took by aſſault the caſtle of Steinhorſt, belonging to the privy counſeller Wederkop, and defended by thirty Daniſh dragoons, who had received orders to repel force by force. Several men were killed on both ſides, before the Hanoverians could enter the place, when the garriſon was diſarmed, and conducted to the frontiers. This petty diſpute, about a ſmall territory which did not yield the value of 1,000l. a-year, had well nigh involved Hanover in a war, which, in all probability, Great Britain muſt have maintained: but this diſpute was compromiſed by a convention between the Kings of England and Denmark.

The ſeſſion of parliament was opened on the 1ſt of February, 1739; when the king, in his ſpeech to both houſes, gave them to underſtand, that a convention was concluded and ratified between him and the King of Spain, who had obliged himſelf to make reparation to the Britiſh ſubjects for their loſſes, by certain ſtipulated payments: the plenipotentiaries were named and appointed for regulating, within a limited time, all thoſe grievances and abuſes which had hitherto interrupted the commerce of Great Britain in the American ſeas; and for ſettling all matters in diſpute, in ſuch a manner as might for the future prevent and remove all new cauſes and pretences

tences of complaint. This famous convention, concluded at the Prado on the 14th of January, imported, that within six weeks, to be reckoned from the day on which the ratifications were exchanged, two ministers plenipotentiaries should meet at Madrid, to confer, and finally regulate the respective pretensions of the two crowns, with relation to the trade and navigation in America and Europe, and to the limits of Florida and Carolina, as well as concerning other points which remained likewise to be adjusted, according to the former treaties subsisting between the two nations: that the plenipotentiaries should finish their conferences within the space of eight months: that in the mean time no progress should be made in the fortifications of Florida and Carolina: that his catholic majesty should pay to the King of Great Britain the sum of 95,000l. for a balance due to the crown and subjects of Great Britain, after deduction made of the demands of the crown and subjects of Spain: that this sum should be employed for the satisfaction, discharge, and payment, of the demands of the British subjects upon the crown of Spain: that this reciprocal discharge, however, should not extend or relate to the accounts and differences which subsisted and were to be settled between the crown of Spain and the Assiento company, nor to any particular or private contracts that might subsist between either of the two crowns, or their ministers, with the subjects of the other; or between the subjects and subjects of each nation respectively: that his catholic majesty should cause the sum of 95,000l. to be paid at London within four months, to be reckoned from the day on which the ratifications were exchanged. Such was the substance of that convention, which alarmed and provoked the merchants and traders of Great Britain, excited the indignation of all those who retained any regard for the honour of their country, and raised a general cry against the minister.

The

The eyes of the whole kingdom were now turned upon the houſe of commons. The two contending parties ſummoned their whole force for the approaching diſpute: on the day appointed for conſidering the convention, four hundred members had taken their ſeats by eight in the morning. In a committee of the whole houſe, certain Weſt-India merchants and planters were heard againſt the convention: ſo that this and the following day were employed in reading papers and obtaining information. On the 8th of March, Mr. H. Walpole, having launched out in the praiſe of that agreement, moved for an addreſs of approbation to his majeſty. He was ſeconded by Mr. Campbell, of Pembrokeſhire; and the debate began with extraordinary ardour. He who firſt diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the liſts was Sir Thomas Sanderſon, at that time treaſurer to the Prince of Wales, afterwards Earl of Scarborough. All the officers and adherents of his royal highneſs had joined the oppoſition; and he himſelf, on this occaſion, ſat in the gallery, to hear the debate on ſuch an important tranſaction. Sir Thomas Sanderſon obſerved, that the Spaniards by the convention, inſtead of giving us reparation, had obliged us to give them a general releaſe. They had not allowed the word *ſatisfaction* to be ſo much as once mentioned in the treaty. Even the Spaniſh pirate who had cut off the ear of Captain Jenkins, and uſed the moſt inſulting expreſſion towards the perſon of the king—an expreſſion which no Britiſh ſubject could decently repeat—an expreſſion which no man that had a regard for his ſovereign could ever forgive—even this fellow lived to enjoy the fruits of his rapine, and remained a living teſtimony of the cowardly tameneſs and mean ſubmiſſion of Great Britain; of the triumphant haughtineſs and ſtubborn pride of Spain. Lord Gage, one of the moſt keen, ſpirited, and ſarcaſtic, orators in the houſe, ſtated in this manner the account

account of the satisfaction obtained from the court of Spain by the convention: The losses sustained by the Spanish depredations amounted to 340,000l. the commissary, by a stroke of his pen, reduced this demand to 200,000l. then 45,000l. was struck off for prompt payment: he next allotted 60,000l. as the remaining part of a debt pretended to be due to Spain, for the destruction of her fleet by Sir George Byng, though it appeared by the instructions on the table, that Spain had been already amply satisfied on that head: these deductions reduced the balance to 95,000l. but the King of Spain insisted upon the South Sea company's paying immediately the sum of 68,000l. as a debt due to him on one head of accounts, though, in other articles, his catholic majesty was indebted to the company a million over and above this demand: the remainder to be paid by Spain did not exceed 27,000l. from which she insisted upon deducting whatever she might have already given in satisfaction for any of the British ships that had been taken; and on being allowed the value of the St. Theresa, a Spanish ship which had been seized in the port of Dublin. Mr. W. Pitt, with an energy of argument and diction peculiar to himself, declaimed against the convention, as insecure, unsatisfactory, and dishonourable to Great Britain. He said the great national objection, the searching of British ships, was not admitted, indeed, in the preamble; but stood there as the reproach of the whole, as the strongest evidence of the fatal submission that followed: on the part of Spain, an usurpation, an inhuman tyranny claimed and exercised over the American seas; on the part of England, an undoubted right by treaties, and from God and nature declared and asserted in the resolutions of parliament; were now referred to the discussion of plenipotentiaries, upon one and the same equal foot. This undoubted right was to be discussed and regulated; and if to regulate be to prescribe

ſcribe rules, as in all conſtruction it is, that right was, by the expreſs words of the convention, to be given up and ſacrificed; for it muſt ceaſe to be any thing from the moment it is ſubmitted to limitation.

The miniſters, in vindication of the convention, aſſerted, that the ſatisfaction granted by Spain was adequate to the injury received: that it was only the preliminary of a treaty which would remove all cauſes of complaint: that war was always expenſive and detrimental to a trading nation, as well as uncertain in its events: that France and Spain would certainly join their forces in caſe of a rupture with Great Britain: that there was not one power in Europe upon which the Engliſh could depend for effectual aſſiſtance; and that the war would favour the cauſe and deſign of a popiſh pretender. The houſe, upon a diviſion, agreed to the addreſs; but, when a motion was made for its being re-committed, the two parties renewed the engagement with redoubled eagerneſs and impetuoſity. Sir William Wyndham and Mr. Pulteney poured all the thunder of their eloquence againſt the inſolence of Spain, and the conceſſions of the Britiſh miniſtry. Sir Robert Walpole exerted all his fortitude and dexterity in defence of himſelf and his meaſures, and the queſtion being put, the reſolutions for the addreſs were carried by a ſmall majority. Then, Sir William Wyndham ſtanding up, made a pathetic remonſtrance upon this determination: "This addreſs (ſaid he) is intended to convince mankind, that the treaty under our conſideration is a reaſonable and an honourable treaty. But if a majority of twenty-eight in ſuch a full houſe ſhould fail of that ſucceſs; if the people ſhould not implicitly reſign their reaſon to a vote of this houſe, what will be the conſequence? Will not the parliament loſe its authority? Will it not be thought, that even in the parliament we are governed by a faction? and what the conſequence of this may be, I leave to

thoſe gentlemen to conſider, who are now to give their vote for this addreſs: for my own part, I will trouble you no more, but, with theſe my laſt words, I ſincerely pray to Almighty God, who has ſo often wonderfully protected theſe kingdoms, that he will graciouſly continue his protection over them, by preſerving us from that impending danger which threatens the nation from without, and likewiſe from that impending danger which threatens our conſtitution from within." The miniſter was, on this occaſion, deſerted by his uſual temper, and even provoked into perſonal abuſe. He declared, that the gentleman who was now the mouth of his opponents had been looked upon as the head of thoſe traitors, who twenty-five years before conſpired the deſtruction of their country and of the royal family, in order to ſet a popiſh pretender upon the throne: that he was ſeized by the vigilance of the then government, and pardoned by its clemency, but all the uſe he had ungratefully made of that clemency; was to qualify himſelf according to law, that he and his party might ſome time or other have an opportunity to overthrow all law. He branded them all as traitors, and expreſſed his hope, that their behaviour would unite all the true friends of the preſent happy eſtabliſhment. To ſuch a degree of mutual animoſity were both ſides inflamed, that the moſt eminent members of the minority actually retired from parliament, and returned no more during that ſeſſion.

The diſpute occaſioned by the convention in the houſe of lords, was maintained with equal warmth. After this famous treaty had been conſidered, Lord Carteret ſuggeſted, that poſſibly one of the contracting powers had preſented a proteſt or declaration, importing that ſhe acceded to ſuch or ſuch a meaſure, only upon condition that the terms of that proteſt or declaration ſhould be made good. He ſaid, that until his mind ſhould be free from the moſt

diſtant

diſtant ſuſpicion that ſuch a paper might exiſt in the preſent caſe, he could not form a juſt opinion of the tranſaction himſelf, nor communicate to their lordſhips any light which might be neceſſary for that purpoſe. The adherents to the miniſtry endeavoured to evade his curioſity in this particular, by general aſſertions: but he inſiſted on his ſuſpicion with ſuch perſeverance, that at length the miniſtry produced the copy of a declaration made by the King of Spain before he ratified the convention, ſignifying that his catholic majeſty reſerved to himſelf, in its full force, the right of being able to ſuſpend the aſſiento of negroes, in caſe the company ſhould not pay within a ſhort time the ſum of 68,000l. ſterling, owing to Spain on the duty of negroes, or on the profit of the ſhip Caroline; that under the validity and force of this proteſt, the ſigning of the ſaid convention might be proceeded on, and in no other manner. In the debate that enſued, Lord Carteret diſplayed a ſurpriſing extent of political knowledge, recommended by all the graces of elocution, chaſte, pure, dignified, and delicate. Lord Bathurſt argued againſt the articles of convention with his uſual ſpirit, integrity, and good ſenſe, particularly animated by an honeſt indignation which the wrongs of his country had inſpired. The Earl of Cheſterfield attacked this inglorious meaſure with all the weight of argument, and all the poignancy of ſatire. The Duke of Argyle, no longer a partiſan of the miniſtry, inveighed againſt it as infamous, treacherous, and deſtructive, with all the fire, impetuoſity, and enthuſiaſm, of declamation. It was defended with unequal arms by the Duke of Newcaſtle, the Earl of Cholmondely, Lord Hervey, the lord chancellor, the Biſhop of Saliſbury, and in particular by the Earl of Ilay, a nobleman of extenſive capacity and uncommon erudition; remarkable for his knowledge of the civil law, and ſeemingly formed by nature for a politician; cool, diſcerning, plauſible,

artful, and enterprising, staunch to the minister, and invariably true to his own interest. The dispute was learned, long, and obstinate: but ended as usual, in the discomfiture of those who had stigmatised the treaty. The house agreed to an address, in which they thanked his majesty for his gracious condescension in laying before them the convention; they acknowledged his gracious prudence in bringing the demands of his subjects for their past losses, which had been so long depending, to a final adjustment; in procuring an express stipulation for a speedy payment; and in laying a foundation for accomplishing the great and desirable ends of obtaining future security; and preserving the peace between the two nations. They declared their confidence in the royal wisdom, that in the treaty to be concluded in pursuance of the convention, proper provisions would be made for the redress of the grievances of which the nation had so justly complained: they assured his majesty, that in case his just expectations should not be answered, the house would heartily and zealously concur in all such measures as should be necessary to vindicate his majesty's honour, and to preserve to his subjects the full enjoyment of all those rights to which they were entitled by treaty and the law of nations. This was a hard-won victory. At the head of those who voted against the address we find the Prince of Wales. His example was followed by six dukes, two-and-twenty earls, four viscounts, eighteen barons, four bishops; and their party was re-inforced by sixteen proxies. A spirited protest was entered and subscribed by nine-and-thirty peers.

Then the Duke of Newcastle produced a subsidy-treaty, by which his majesty obliged himself to pay the King of Denmark 70,000l. per annum, on condition of the Dane's furnishing to his Britannic majesty a body of six thousand men, when demanded. At the same time, his grace delivered a message from the

the king, desiring the house would enable him to fulfil this engagement; and also to raise what money and troops the exigency of affairs, during the approaching recess, might require. Another vehement dispute arose from this proposal. With respect to the treaty, Lord Carteret observed, that no use could be made of the Danish troops in any expedition undertaken against Spain, because it was stipulated in the treaty, that they should not be used either in Italy, or on board of the fleet, or be transported in whole or in part beyond sea, after they should have marched out of the territories of Denmark, except for the defence of the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland; nay, should France join against the English, the Danes could not act against that power or Spain, except as part of an army formed in Germany or Flanders. This body of Danes may be said, therefore, to have been retained for the defence and protection of Hanover: or, if the interest of Britain was at all consulted in the treaty, it must have been in preventing the Danes from joining their fleets to those of France and Spain. Then he argued against the second part of the message with great vivacity. He said nothing could be more dangerous to the constitution than a general and unlimited vote of credit. He affirmed that the practice was but of modern date in England: that it was never heard of before the revolution; and never became frequent until the nation was blessed with the present administration. He said, if ever a general vote of credit and confidence should become a customary compliment from the parliament to the crown at the end of every session, or as often as the minister might think fit to desire it, parliaments would grow despicable in the eyes of the people: then a proclamation might be easily substituted in its stead, and happy would it be for the nation if that should be sufficient; for when a parliament ceases to be a check upon ministers, it becomes an useless and unnecessary burthen

burthen on the people. The Duke of Argyle and the Earl of Chesterfield enlarged upon the same topics. Nevertheless, the house complied with the message; and the same message being communicated to the commons, they voted 70,583l. for the subsidy to Denmark, and 500,000l. for augmenting the forces on an emergency.

As Great Britain stood engaged by the convention to pay to the crown of Spain the sum of 60,000l. in consideration of the ships taken and destroyed by Sir George Byng, which sum was to be applied to the relief of the British merchants who had suffered by the Spanish depredations, the commons inserted in a bill a clause, providing for this sum to be paid by parliament. When the bill was read in the house of lords, a motion was made by Lord Bathurst for an address, to know, whether Spain had paid the money stipulated by the convention, as the time limited for the payment of it was now expired. The Duke of Newcastle, by his majesty's permission, acquainted the house, that it was not paid; and that Spain had as yet given no reason for the non-payment. The minister, however, in order to atone in some measure for his former supineness, now began to put the nation into a condition for war. Letters of marque and reprisals were granted against the Spaniards: a promotion was made of general officers: the troops were augmented: a great fleet was assembled at Spithead; a reinforcement sent out to Admiral Haddock; and an embargo laid on all merchant ships outward bound. Notwithstanding these preparations, Mr. Keen, the British minister at Madrid, declared to the court of Spain, that his master, although he had permitted his subjects to make reprisals, would not be understood to have broken the peace; and that this permission would be recalled as soon as his catholic majesty should be disposed to make the satisfaction which had been so justly demanded. But he was given to understand, that

that the King of Spain looked upon thoſe repriſals as acts of hoſtility; and that he hoped, with the aſſiſtance of heaven and his allies, he ſhould be able to ſupport a good cauſe againſt his adverſaries. He publiſhed a manifeſto in juſtification of his own conduct, complaining that Admiral Haddock had received orders to cruiſe with his ſquadron between the capes of St. Vincent and St. Mary, in order to ſurpriſe the Aſſogue ſhips; that letters of repriſal had been publiſhed at London, in an indecent ſtyle, and even carried into execution in different parts of the world. He excuſed his non payment of the 95,000l. ſtipulated in the convention, by affirming that the Britiſh court had firſt contravened the articles of that treaty, by the orders ſent to Haddock; by continuing to fortify Georgia; by reinforcing the ſquadron at Jamaica; and by eluding the payment of the 68,000l. due to Spain from the South-Sea company, on the aſſiento for negroes. The French ambaſſador at the Hague declared that the king his maſter was obliged by treaties to aſſiſt his catholic majeſty by ſea and land, in caſe he ſhould be attacked; he diſſuaded the States-General from eſpouſing the quarrel of Great Britain; and they aſſured him they would obſerve a ſtrict neutrality, though they could not avoid furniſhing his Britannic majeſty with ſuch ſuccours as he could demand by virtue of the treaties ſubſiſting between the two powers. The people of England were inſpired with uncommon alacrity at the near proſpect of war, for which they had ſo long clamoured: and the miniſtry, ſeeing it unavoidable, began to be earneſt and effectual in their preparations. Nothing tended more to exaſperate the nation againſt the Spaniards, than the then recent ſtory of Captain Jenkins, maſter of a Scottiſh merchant ſhip. He was boarded by the captain of a Spaniſh guarda-coſta, who treated him in the moſt barbarous manner. The Spaniards, after having rummaged his veſſel for what they

they called contraband commodities, without finding any thing to juſtify their ſearch, inſulted Jenkins with the moſt opprobrious invectives. They tore off one of his ears, bidding him carry it to his king, and tell him they would ſerve him in the ſame manner ſhould an opportunity offer: they tortured him with the moſt ſhocking cruelty, and threatened him with immediate death. This man was examined at the bar of the houſe of commons, and being aſked by a member, what he thought when he found himſelf in the hands of ſuch barbarians? "I recommended my ſoul to God, ſaid he, and my cauſe to my country." The behaviour of this brave ſeaman, the ſight of his ear, which was produced, with his account of the indignities which had been offered to the nation and ſovereign of Great Britain, filled the whole houſe with indignation. Jenkins was afterwards employed in the ſervice of the Eaſt-India company: he approved himſelf worthy of his good fortune, in a long engagement with the pirate Angria, during which he behaved with extraordinary courage and conduct; and ſaved his own ſhip, with three others that were under his convoy.

The events of war were ſtill unfavourable to the emperor. He had beſtowed the command of his army upon Count Wallis, who aſſembled his forces in the neighbourhood of Belgrade; and advanced towards Croiſka, where he was attacked by the Turks with ſuch impetuoſity and perſeverance, that he was obliged to give ground, after a long and obſtinate engagement, in which he loſt above ſix thouſand men. The Earl of Crawford, who ſerved as a volunteer in the imperial army, ſignalized his courage in an extraordinary manner on this occaſion, and received a dangerous wound, of which he never perfectly recovered. The Turks were afterwards worſted at Jabouka; nevertheleſs, their grand army inveſted Belgrade on the ſide of Servia, and carried on the operations

operations of the ſiege with extraordinary vigour. The emperor, dreading the loſs of this place, ſeeing his finances exhauſted, and his army conſiderably diminiſhed, conſented to a negociation for peace, which was tranſacted under the mediation of the French ambaſſador at the Ottoman Porte. Count Newperg, as imperial plenipotentiary, ſigned the preliminaries on the 1ſt of September, 1739. They were ratified by the emperor, though he pretended to be diſſatisfied with the articles; and declared that his miniſter had exceeded his powers. By this treaty the houſe of Auſtria ceded to the grand ſignor, Belgrade, Sabatz, Servia, Auſtrian Wallacia, the iſle and fortreſs of Orſova, with the fort of St. Elizabeth: and the contracting powers agreed that the Danube and the Saave ſhould ſerve as boundaries to the two empires. The emperor publiſhed a circular letter, addreſſed to his miniſters at all the courts in Europe, blaming Count Wallis for the bad ſucceſs of the laſt campaign, and diſowning the negotiations of Count Newperg: nay, theſe two officers were actually diſgraced, and confined in different caſtles. This, however, was no other than a ſacrifice to the reſentment of the czarina, who complained that the emperor had concluded a ſeparate peace, contrary to his engagements with the Ruſſian empire. Her general, Count Munich, had obtained a victory over the Turks at Choczim in Moldavia, and made himſelf maſter of that place, in which he found two hundred pieces of artillery: but the country was ſo ruined by the incurſions of the Tartars, that the Muſcovites could not ſubſiſt in it during the winter. The czarina, finding herſelf abandoned by the emperor, and unable to cope with the whole power of the Ottoman empire, took the firſt opportunity of putting an end to the war upon honourable terms. After a ſhort negociation, the conferences ended in a treaty, by which ſhe was left in poſſeſſion of Aſoph, on condition that its fortification

ſhould be demoliſhed; and the ancient limits were re eſtabliſhed between the two empires.

A rupture between Great Britain and Spain was now become inevitable. The Engliſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean had already made prize of two rich caracca ſhips. The king had iſſued orders for augmenting his land-forces, and raiſing a body of marines: and a great number of ſhips of war were put in commiſſion. Admiral Vernon had been ſent to the Weſt-Indies, to aſſume the command of the ſquadron in thoſe ſeas; and to annoy the trade and ſettlements of the Spaniards. This gentleman had rendered himſelf conſiderable in the houſe of commons, by loudly condemning all the meaſures of the miniſtry, and bluntly ſpeaking his ſentiments, whatever they were, without reſpect of perſons, and ſometimes without any regard to decorum. He was counted a good officer, and this boiſterous manner ſeemed to enhance his character. As he had once commanded a ſquadron in Jamaica, he was perfectly well acquainted with thoſe ſeas; and in a debate upon the Spaniſh depredations, he chanced to affirm, that Porto Bello on the Spaniſh main might be eaſily taken: nay, he even undertook to reduce it with ſix ſhips only. This offer was echoed from the mouths of all the members in the oppoſition. Vernon was extolled as another Drake or Raleigh: he became the idol of a party, and his praiſe reſounded from all corners of the kingdom. The miniſter, in order to appeaſe the clamours of the people on this ſubject, ſent him as commander in chief to the Weſt-Indies. He was pleaſed with an opportunity to remove ſuch a troubleſome cenſor; and, perhaps, he was not without hope, that Vernon would diſgrace himſelf and his party, by failing in the exploit he had undertaken. His catholic majeſty having ordered all the Britiſh ſhips in his harbours to be ſeized and detained, the King of England would keep meaſures with him no

longer,

longer, but denounced war againſt him on the 23d of October, 1739.

It has been well remarked, that in a nation like Great Britain, in which arts, arms, and commerce, are cultivated, war at certain intervals proves beneficial to the ſtate; as it turns the current of wealth from the induſtrious to the enterpriſing. Thereby all orders of men find encouragement in their turns, and the nation becomes compoſed of individuals, ſome of whom have ſkill to acquire property, whilſt others have courage to defend it. A long interval had now elapſed, ſince the treaty of Utrecht had reſtored peace to Europe; the ſhort and unimportant war with Spain, and the commotions in the north, very little affected the eſſential intereſts of Great Britain, and were inconſiderable interruptions to its tranquillity. Now the ſcene changed, the dictatorial haughtineſs of Spain and the commercial ſpirit of Britain were incompatible; negotiation was found inadequate to the purpoſe of adjuſting differences, which aroſe from the jarring intereſts of two powerful kingdoms. In ſuch caſes each party confidently boaſts the juſtice of its cauſe, and appeals to all the world for a confirmation of its aſſertions; but in the diſputes of princes, fleets and armies are the beſt civilians, and can alone eſtabliſh or confute the principles laid down in manifeſtoes and reſcripts.

When the war with Spain broke out, the miniſtry was not compoſed of men diſtinguiſhed for ſuch talents as are beſt ſuited to direct the force of a great nation. In order to give full efficacy to the operations of war, it is neceſſary that the plans concerted in the cabinet ſhould be dictated by that kind of wiſdom which is formed by long experience, and if a langour prevails in bringing forward ſuch deſigns, the public ſervice is not likely to be promoted, however judiciouſly they might originate. Sir Charles Wager, indeed, preſided at the admiralty-board, with great cre-

dit to himſelf and benefit to the nation; as his life had been paſſed in a continual courſe of active ſervices, ſo his advanced years made him now the fitteſt man to direct what others ſhould do, and the manner in which it ſhould be done; but his authority was checked aud controuled by the other great officers of ſtate. Sir Robert Walpole and the Duke of Newcaſtle enjoyed all the power which the confidence of their ſovereign could impart. The firſt was ſhrewd, ſagacious, and indefatigable, whilſt purſuing his pacific ſyſtem. No miniſter, before this time, had ever ſo openly and uniformly ſtruck at the root of all public virtue, by purchaſing from the repreſentatives of the people an implicit concurrence in his meaſures. His abilities as a financier, and even as a legiſlator, muſt be acknowledged to have been diſtinguiſhed, but poſterity ought to execrate the memory of that man, who, to gratify his inſatiable thirſt of power, made corruption conſtitutional in the nation. A miniſter, who in checking vice and profligacy knows how to render them ſubſervient to the purpoſes of government, deſerves commendation, but he that makes them the pillars on which his fabric of power reſts, is no better than a Machiavel in politics. The object of thoſe in power ſhould be to promote good morals among the people; if, inſtead of attending to that, their influence takes a contrary direction, every one who views the tranſactions of the world with a philoſophic eye, will not ſcruple to rank ſuch ſtateſman among the moſt pernicious of the human race. The Duke of Newcaſtle was a man of very circumſcribed abilities, and neither verſed in foreign nor domeſtic politics. His parliamentary intereſt was very great, and a zeal for the houſe of Hanover, as it had led him to render eſſential ſervice to the proteſtant ſucceſſion, ſo it had made him a miniſter in nature's deſpite.

At the time we are now ſpeaking of, one hundred and

and ſeven ſhips of war were actually in commiſſion; twenty-ſix of which were in the Weſt-Indies; twenty-two in the Mediterranean; fifty-five at home, and four on various cruiſes. The complement of men on-board this fleet was upwards of twenty-two thouſand. For the better ſupply of ſeamen to ſerve in Britiſh ſhips of war, and alſo on-board of merchant ſhips and privateers, an act of parliament was paſſed, whereby free leave was given, during the continuance of the war, for veſſels in the merchant's ſervice, to be navigated by any number of foreign ſeamen, not exceeding three-fourths of the ſhip's company; and ſuch foreign ſeamen ſerving on-board Britiſh ſhips, either of war, trade, or privateers, for the ſpace of two years, were thereby to be afterwards deemed, in all reſpects, natural-born ſubjects, ſubject, however, to certain reſtrictions, whereby they were rendered incapable of holding places of truſt or honour, civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, &c. And by this act, the king, his heirs, and ſucceſſors, were empowered in any future war, by proclamation during ſuch war, and no longer, to permit the like number of foreign ſeamen to ſerve in merchant ſhips or privateers, as well as in ſhips of war. By another act paſſed during the ſame ſeſſion, all ſeamen at the age of fifty-five years or upwards, and all ſuch as have not attained the age of eighteen years, and alſo all foreigners ſerving in Britiſh ſhips, are exempted from being impreſſed into his majeſty's ſervice: and perſons of any age uſing the ſea, were thereby alſo exempted from being impreſſed for the firſt two years of their being at ſea; as were all ſea-apprentices for the firſt three years of their apprenticeſhip.

Deſigns were now formed to annoy the Spaniards in their remote poſſeſſions; and as they drew all their wealth from thoſe ſources, every blow which might be ſtruck there, would be moſt ſenſibly felt by that nation, and weaken their ability for maintaining the war.

war. For this end two ſquadrons were ordered to be got ready; one of which was to be commanded by Captain Anſon, of the Centurion, a ſixty-gun ſhip, the other by Captain Cornwall. The ſquadron under Mr. Anſon was to take a regiment of foot on-board, with three independent companies, to be commanded by Colonel Bland, to ſet ſail with all poſſible expedition, and not call at any place till they reached Java-head, in the Eaſt-Indies, and there ſtay no longer than to take in water, and afterwards proceed to Manilla, in Leuconia, one of the Philippine iſlands belonging to the Spaniards.—Captain Cornwall's ſquadron was to be of equal ſtrength with the former, and to paſs round Cape Horn, directly into the South-Sea, to range along that coaſt, and attempt the Spaniſh ſettlements there, if practicable. In its return it was to rendezvous at Manilla, there to join the ſquadron under Anſon. Here they were to refreſh their men, refit their ſhips, and receive orders.

Whilſt thoſe remote parts of the world were deſtined to ſuffer the horrors of war, the ſquadron under Admiral Vernon was to attack the Spaniards on the eaſtern ſide of the iſthmus of Darien, whilſt Commodore Cornwall, on the weſtern ſide, was to endeavour the reduction of Panama. Should theſe conjunct expeditions prove ſucceſsful, the treaſures of the weſtern world would be transferred to new profeſſors; but a ſcheme of ſuch magnitude was not likely to be carried into effect by ſuch a miniſtry; accordingly, after ſome months had been employed in fitting out the reſpective ſquadrons, the deſign of ſending out Captain Cornwall was totally laid aſide, and the ſame end was propoſed to be anſwered by the expedition to be undertaken by Captain Anſon. But the impediments that were thrown in his way of his ſailing, occaſioned ſo much time to be loſt, that the commander and all who ſerved under him ſeemed to be men devoted to deſtruction, rather than (as was at firſt imagined) a favoured

voured band, deſtined to a ſervice, by which the moſt eſſential advantages might be derived to their country, and immenſe wealth be obtained by each individual. It was not until the 28th of June, 1740, that the Duke of Newcaſtle, principal ſecretary of ſtate, delivered to Commodore Anſon his majeſty's inſtructions, which were dated the 31ſt of January, 1739. Theſe he had no ſooner received, than he repaired to Spithead, in order to proceed immediately to ſea; but he found his ſhips ſo badly manned, that another month was loſt before he could be in any meaſure ſupplied. An order from the board of admiralty had been ſent to Sir John Norris, directing him to provide the commodore with ſuch ſeamen as he wanted. Sir John had ſailed to the weſtward, and Admiral Balchin, who ſucceeded to the command at Spithead, ſent only one hundred and ſeventy men inſtead of three hundred, and of theſe thirty-two were from the hoſpital and ſick quarter, and ninety-eight were marines.

But the commodore's mortification did not end here; the regiment of foot and independent companies which had been propoſed to embark with him, were now countermanded, and all the land-forces that were to be allowed were five hundred invalids, to be collected from the out penſioners of Chelſea college. As theſe out-penſioners conſiſt of ſoldiers, who, from their age, wounds, or other infirmities, are incapable of ſervice in marching regiments, Mr. Anſon was greatly chagrined at having ſuch a decrepid detachment allotted him; for he was fully perſuaded that the greateſt part of them would periſh long before they arrived at the ſcene of action, ſince the delays he had already encountered neceſſarily confined his paſſage round Cape Horn to the moſt rigorous ſeaſon of the year. Sir Charles Wager too joined in opinion with the commodore, that invalids were no ways proper for this ſervice, and ſolicited ſtrenuouſly to have them

them exchanged. But he was told, that perſons who were ſuppoſed to be better judges of ſoldiers than he or Mr. Anſon thought them the propereſt men that could be employed on this occaſion: and, upon this determination, they were ordered on-board the ſquadron. Inſtead of five hundred there came on-board no more than two hundred and fifty-nine; for all thoſe who had limbs and ſtrength to walk out of Portſmouth deſerted, leaving behind them only ſuch as were literally invalids, moſt of them being ſixty years of age, and ſome of them upwards of ſeventy. Indeed, it is difficult to conceive a more moving ſcene than the embarkation of theſe unhappy veterans: they were themſelves extremely averſe to the ſervice they were engaged in, and fully appriſed of all the diſaſters they were afterwards expoſed to; the apprehenſions of which were ſtrongly marked by the concern that appeared in their countenances, which was mixed with no ſmall degree of indignation, to be thus hurried from their repoſe into a fatiguing employ, to which neither the ſtrength of their bodies nor the vigour of their minds were any ways proportioned; and where, without ſeeing the face of an enemy, or in the leaſt promoting the ſucceſs of the enterprize, they would, in all probability, uſeleſsly periſh by lingering and painful diſeaſes; and this too after they had ſpent the activity and ſtrength of their youth in their country's ſervice.

To ſupply the place of the two hundred and forty invalids which had deſerted, as mentioned above, there were ordered on-board two hundred and ten marines, detached from different regiments. Theſe were raw and undiſciplined men; for they were juſt raiſed, and had ſcarcely any thing more of the ſoldier than their regimentals, none of them having been ſo far trained as to be permitted to fire. The laſt detachment of theſe marines came on-board the 8th of Auguſt, and on the 10th the ſquadron ſailed from Spithead

Spithead to St. Helen's, there to wait for a wind to proceed on the expedition. And here we ſhall leave Mr. Anſon to proſecute his long and perilous voyage, intending to give a general outline of it upon his return.

The expedition under Admiral Vernon is next to be ſpoken to. The ſhips he carried out with him to the Weſt-Indies were the Louiſa, Captain Waterhouſe, of ſixty guns and 420 men; Worceſter, Captain Mayne, of ſeventy guns and 480 men; Burford, Captain Watſon, of ſeventy guns and 500 men; Strafford, Captain Trevor, of ſixty guns and 400 men; and Norwich, Captain Herbert, of fifty guns and 300 men. On the 23d of July, 1739, Admiral Vernon ſailed with his ſquadron from Spithead; he arrived at Antigua on the 29th of September, and on the 12th day following at Port Royal, in Jamaica, where, on the 28th he was joined by Commodore Brown, in the Hampton-court. Being now in ſufficient force to attempt ſomething againſt the Spaniſh ſettlements, means were uſed to gain intelligence which of them was moſt proper to attack. In the beginning of September, Captain Stapleton, in the Sheerneſs, had taken Don Pedro Ellſtagaritta, captain to the Spaniſh admiral, and who remained a priſoner at Jamaica. Him our admiral propoſed to exchange for the agents to the South-Sea company, whom the Spaniards had impriſoned. This exchange ſerved as an excuſe for ſending in a flag of truce, by means of which the condition of the Spaniſh fortreſſes could be known.

Every means being uſed to procure certain intelligence of the enemy, it was at length known, that the galleons were deſtined to aſſemble at Carthagena, in order to proceed to Porto Bello, and open the annual fair at that place, the money having been brought from Panama ſome time before. This intelligence determined the admiral to make his attack upon

Porto Bello. He therefore procured the beſt pilots in the iſland for this expedition; and the governor of Jamaica, ſenſible of the great importance of the intended ſervice, eſpecially in diſtreſſing the enemy, gave him what ſupplies of ſoldiers he could ſpare, and Captain Newton, an experienced officer, to command them. In the mean time three ſhips ſent to the coaſt of the Caraccas arrived in port without effecting any thing, having had bad pilots, the ground being foul, the weather tempeſtuous, and the Laguira ſhore ſo ſtrongly fortified, as to render it, with the ſmall force they had with them, impracticable; only Captain Knowles took a ſhip, on-board of which were ſeventy-four thouſand pieces of eight, and cloathing for the garriſon of St. Auguſtine.

Every thing being now got ready for ſailing, the admiral left inſtructions for the Windſor, then on a cruiſe, and the Diamond, which was cleaning, to follow him with all convenient ſpeed, in caſe of his meeting with a ſuperior force; he appointed a convoy for the homeward-bound trade, and ſtationed a ſhip to windward, in order to protect that coming from England. The admiral ſailed on the 5th of November with the five ſhips which he brought from England, to which the Hampton-court was added. On the 20th in the evening, he came within ſight of Porto Bello, having been ſo long delayed on his paſſage by contrary winds. There being but little wind that evening, though a very great ſwell, he anchored for the night ſix leagues off the ſhore, being apprehenſive of driving to the eaſtward of the harbour. And here it may be proper, before we enter upon the attack, to give ſome account of the place.

The town ſtands on the north ſide of the iſthmus of Darien, which running from eaſt to weſt, betwixt the North and South Seas, joins the two continents of North and South America. It is ſeventy miles from Panama, which lies on the ſouth ſide of the iſthmus.

isthmus. Porto Bello has a convenient bay about a mile deep, with good anchorage and shelter for ships; it is near half a mile broad at the mouth of the harbour. At the entrance of the north side of the bay, close by a steep rock, stood a strong castle called the Iron castle, mounting seventy-eight great guns, with a battery beneath, parallel with the water, of twenty-two guns, the castle and fort having a garrison of three hundred men. On the opposite side of the bay, about a mile farther up, on an eminence, stood castle Gloria, consisting of two regular bastions towards the sea, mounting ninety guns, with a curtain between of twenty-two guns, besides a line of eight guns pointing to the mouth of the harbour, the whole defended by four hundred men. A little above this castle, near the other end of the town, on a point running into the bay, stood fort St. Jeronimo, a fort of quadrangular redoubt, strongly built, well planted with cannon, and properly defended. Under the cannon of Gloria castle and fort St. Jeronimo, all the ships in the harbour rode at anchor; and this defence, with the guns on the Iron castle, rendered the entrance of the harbour extremely difficult. At the bottom of the harbour lies the town of Porto Bello, built along the shore in the shape of a half moon; it is long and narrow, with two main streets besides that run across, and a small parade in the middle of the town, surrounded with pretty good dwellings; the whole number of houses amounts to about five hundred, two churches, a treasury, custom-house, and an exchange. The east side is low and swampy, and the sea at low water leaves the shore within the harbour a great way bare from the houses. The bottom here, being a blackish filthy mud, is very fetid, and occasions noxious vapours by reason of the heat of the climate, which lies in the tenth degree of north latitude: hence also it is but thin of inhabitants, except at the time of the fair, which alone raises the reputation of the place,

it being the market through which is an annual circulation of all the wealth of Peru, and the manufactures of Europe. It was taken by the Buccaneers in 1688, but afterwards being re-fortified more ſtrongly, it had for ſome time been reckoned impregnable; ſo that it was formerly given out that a ſquadron of ſhips and at leaſt eight thouſand men could not take it, when the Britiſh ſhips lay rotting, and its ſailors dying away at the Baſtimentos: though Admiral Vernon had aſſerted in the houſe of commons, that he would take it with "only ſix ſhips of war."

Commodore Brown in the Hampton-court led the attack with great bravery; he was well ſupported by Captain Herbert in the Norwich, and Captain Mayne in the Worceſter. Upwards of four hundred ſhot were fired at the Iron fort. The admiral perceived that the Spaniards had quitted ſeveral parts of the fort; whereupon he made ſignal for the boats, in which were about forty ſailors, with a company of marines and their officers, to land with all imaginable expedition, whilſt he was coming up to the fort to batter it. The admiral, luffing up as near the fort as he conveniently could, was ſaluted with a whole volley, every ſhot of which almoſt took place; one beat away the ſtern of his barge, another ſhivered a large gun on his upper deck, a third went through his foretop maſt, and a fourth paſſing through the awnings, within a few inches of the mainmaſt, beat down the barricado of the quarter-deck not far from where the admiral ſtood, killed three men, and wounded five more, the Spaniards all this time vainly imagining that they could ſink the whole ſquadron; yet this was ſo far from intimidating our ſailors, that they returned the ſalute ſo effectually, that, though the enemy diſcharged a few more ſhot, they did us afterwards no conſiderable damage: for the fire of the admiral's ſmall arms ſcoured the lower batteries of the Spaniards, driving them from thence where they could do

moſt

moſt execution; and by this means alſo our men were ſecured in landing; which, as the Spaniards afterwards owned, was the principal occaſion of their abandoning their lower batteries; the ſmall ſhot from the ſhips which had before paſſed them not at all reaching, though their cannon had beat down ſome of the upper part of the fort. As the boats came near the admiral, he called out to them to land directly under the walls of the fort, in the front of their lower batteries, though no breach had been made. Yet this happily anſwered expectation; for they all landed ſafe except two ſoldiers who were killed by the ſmall arms from the caſtle. Upon this ſome ſeamen ſcaling the walls, which they chiefly performed by one man ſetting himſelf cloſe under an embraſure, whilſt another climbed upon his ſhoulders, they entered under the mouth of a great gun, which ſtruck ſuch a general panic into the Spaniards, that the officers and men at the lower battery fled farther up into the fort, after they had firſt hung out a white flag for capitulating, which the admiral anſwered with another; but ſuch was the eagerneſs of his own men, and thoſe on-board the Strafford which followed him, that it was a good while before he could ſtop them from firing.

In the mean time the ſeamen who had climbed up the walls of the lower battery, having firſt ſtruck the colours, afterwards drew up the ſoldiers, upon which the Spaniards who had retreated into the caſtle ſurrendered at diſcretion; of theſe only five officers and thirty-five men remained out of three hundred, the reſt having been killed, wounded, or made their eſcape. After finding all their efforts of reſiſtance prove ineffectual, they ſhut themſelves up in a ſtrong lodgement; but, upon our men firing a gun through the door, they ſoon opened it and begged for quarter.

The ſhips, which had gone in before the admiral, fell ſo far to leeward, that they were not within ſight of

of the Gloria caſtle; but, the admiral's own ſhip lying open to it, they kept firing one of their largeſt guns at him till night, but did little or no execution, and all the damage he received was, one ſhot which went through the head of his fore-top-maſt juſt above the rigging. The admiral, finding that the Spaniards continued their fire, tried ſome of his lower tier, which being new guns anſwered to admiration, carrying over Gloria caſtle into the town, none of the ſhot falling ſhort; one ſhot went through the governor's houſe, ſome through ſeveral other houſes, and one ſunk a ſloop under the caſtle.

This ſucceſsful beginning was attended with the loſs only of three men killed, beſides five more wounded in the admiral's own ſhip, the like number of killed and wounded on-board the Worceſter, and one man had both legs ſhot off on-board the Hampton-court: none were killed or wounded in the reſt of the ſquadron.

The next morning, being the 22d of November, the admiral went on-board the Hampton-court, Commodore Brown, in order to call a council of war, and give the neceſſary directions for warping the ſhips up in the night to attack Gloria caſtle, as it would have been impracticable to attempt it in the day-time. But in this he was prevented by the enemy's hoiſting a white flag, and ſending a boat with a flag of truce to the admiral, and the conditions ſigned on which they deſired to capitulate, viz. That the governor would deliver up all the fortifications, provided they might be allowed to march out with the honours of war, have an indemnity for themſelves, the town, and the inhabitants, and be permitted to keep all the ſhips in the harbour. This laſt article could not by any means be admitted; the admiral being reſolved to have the ſhips which had done the Engliſh merchants all the injuries they complained of on theſe coaſts. Accordingly he drew up the articles on which he was willing

to

to capitulate with the Spaniards, and ſent them back to the governor, allowing him only a few hours to take his reſolution. But, within the time limited, the conditions offered were accepted.

Before night the admiral ſent Captain Newton, who commanded the detachment of ſoldiers from Jamaica, with about one hundred and twenty ſoldiers, who took poſſeſſion of Gloria caſtle and Jeronimo fort, being the two remaining fortreſſes untaken which defended the harbour; the former lying below the town, and the other above it.

In the harbour were two Spaniſh men of war of twenty guns each, together with a ſnow, the crews of which, upon ſeeing the regular and bold attack made on the Iron fort, and deſpairing of being able to defend themſelves, fell to plundering the town in the night of the 21ſt, and committed great outrages on the inhabitants.

From the ſeveral fortreſſes the admiral took on-board his ſquadron, forty pieces of braſs cannon, ten field-pieces, four mortars, and eighteen patteraroes, all of the ſame metal, and rendered unſerviceable above eighty iron cannon, by knocking off their trunnions and ſpiking them up; he alſo took on-board all their ſhot and ammunition, except one hundred and twenty-two barrels of powder, which he expended in ſpringing of mines, by which all the fortifications of the town were blown up and entirely demoliſhed, and the harbour left open and defenceleſs. Ten thouſand dollars, which had arrived for paying the Spaniſh troops at Porto Bello, falling into the admiral's hands, he diſtributed them among the forces for their encouragement.

Strict attention was given by the admiral to prevent the inhabitants ſuffering in their perſons or effects: orders were delivered out to all the captains of the ſquadron, to ſuffer no boats to go aſhore, but with an officer, for whoſe conduct they would be reſponſible. As the moſt effectual means of preventing outrages, puniſh-

puniſhment was not only denounced againſt offenders, but it was declared, that ſuch ſhould be deprived of their ſhare of the ſeveral captures, which were ſecured, as a reward for their gallant behaviour.

On the 27th, the admiral was joined by the Diamond, Captain Knowles; and on the 29th, by the Windſor, Captain Berkley, and the Angleſea, Captain Reddiſh. From the papers of Captain Berkley, this account is principally taken.

The principal engineer in directing the mines was Captain Knowles of the Diamond, aſſiſted by Captain Boſcawen, (who had deſired to ſerve in this expedition as a volunteer, his own ſhip, the Shoreham, being unfit for ſea;) and by Mr. Barnes, purſer of the Worceſter, who having been an officer in the army, was very uſeful on this occaſion. Commodore Brown had the chief direction of all that was to be done at Gloria caſtle and St. Jeronimo fort; and Captain Watſon, of the admiral's own ſhip the Burford, took care of the execution of all that was to be done at the Iron fort, where the walls of the lower battery, conſiſting of twenty-two guns, were nine feet thick, and of a hard ſtone cemented with fine mortar, that it was remarkably difficult to make any impreſſion in it for forming a mine.

On the 6th of December, Captain Stapleton returned from his cruiſe off Carthagena, having taken two veſſels laden with ſtores and proviſions going to that place.

During Admiral Vernon's ſtay at Porto Bello, he ſent a letter to the preſident of Panama, demanding the releaſement of the factors and ſervants belonging to the South-Sea company, who were confined at that place, together with the reſtitution of their own perſonal effects, as well as thoſe of the aforeſaid company. In conſequence of this meſſage, the preſident ſent an officer with Mr. Humphrys and Dr. Wright, factors, and alſo with the ſervants of the company, who were delivered to the admiral at Porto Bello.

Thus

Thus the fortifications of that place were demoliſhed. And, though the admiral was not able to puſh his conqueſts farther up the country, yet the national advantage ariſing from what he had already done was very conſiderable, particularly as the traders of Jamaica had now a fair opportunity of opening an extenſive commerce with the Spaniards, who were fond of clandeſtinely conveying their money from Panama over the iſthmus.

The principal point now remaining was, to diſtreſs the galleons in Carthagena, by preventing them from receiving any ſupplies of naval ſtores and proviſions, which they greatly wanted; the admiral, therefore, on the 11th December, ordered Captain Knowles, in the Diamond, to accompany the ſquadron till their arrival off Carthagena, and then to cruiſe before that port, in order to intercept any ſupplies, and obſerve the motions of the galleons.

On the 13th of December, the admiral ſailed, with his ſquadron, from Porto Bello, on his return to Jamaica; and having reaſon to conclude, from intelligence given him by Captain Reddiſh, that the Ferrol ſquadron might be, by that time, in thoſe ſeas, on the 15th the admiral gave orders to all the captains, not on any account to hazard loſing company with the flag; and that in caſe of ſeparation, the firſt place of general rendezvous for twenty-four hours, ſhould be under Point Cano; but, not ſeeing any thing of the admiral in that time, they were to make the beſt of their way for the next place of general rendezvous, namely, Port Royal. The admiral being off Carthagena, on the 28th, diſpatched for England Captain Renton, in the Spaniſh ſnow called the Triumph, with the news of his ſucceſs at Porto Bello; which was no ſooner made public, than bonfires blazed in every ſtreet, and the houſes were illuminated: the lords and commons joined in an addreſs of congratulation upon

this ſucceſs of his majeſty's arms. The commons gratified every wiſh of the crown in voting ſupplies: thirty-five thouſand ſeamen were ordered for the ſervice of the enſuing year, beſides eight-and-twenty thouſand land-forces, and five thouſand marines. They voted the ſubſidy to the King of Denmark; and they empowered their ſovereign to defray certain extraordinary expences not ſpecified in the eſtimates. To anſwer theſe uncommon grants, they impoſed a land-tax of four ſhillings in the pound; and enabled his majeſty to deduct 120,000l. from the ſinking-fund; in a word, the expence of the war, during the courſe of the enſuing year, amounted to about four millions. The ſeſſion was cloſed on the 29th of April, when the king thanked the commons for the ſupplies they had ſo liberally granted, and recommended union and moderation to both houſes.

During the greateſt part of this winter, the poor had been grievouſly afflicted in conſequence of a ſevere froſt, which began at Chriſtmas, and continued to the latter end of February. The river Thames was covered with ſuch a cruſt of ice, that a multitude of people dwelled upon it in tents, and a great number of booths were erected for the entertainment of the populace. The navigation was entirely ſtopped: the watermen and fiſhermen were diſabled from earning a livelihood: the fruits of the earth were deſtroyed by the cold, which was ſo extreme, that many perſons were chilled to death; and this calamity was the more deeply felt, as the poor could not afford to ſupply themſelves with coals and fuel, which were advanced in price in proportion to the ſeverity and continuance of the froſt. The lower claſs of labourers, who worked in the open air, were now deprived of all means of ſubſiſtence: many kinds of manufacture were laid aſide, becauſe it was found impoſſible to carry them on. The price of all ſorts

of

of proviſion roſe almoſt to a dearth: even water was ſold in the ſtreets of London. In this ſeaſon of diſtreſs, many wretched families muſt have periſhed by cold and hunger, had not thoſe of opulent fortunes been inſpired with a remarkable ſpirit of compaſſion and humanity. Nothing can more redound to the honour of the Engliſh nation, than did thoſe inſtances of benevolence and well conducted charity which were then exhibited. The liberal hand was not only opened to the profeſſed beggar, and the poor that owned their diſtreſs; but uncommon pains were taken to find out and relieve thoſe more unhappy objects, who from motives of falſe pride, or ingenuous ſhame, endeavoured to conceal their miſery. Theſe were aſſiſted almoſt in their own deſpite. The ſolitary habitations of the widow, the fatherleſs, and the unfortunate, were viſited by the beneficent, who felt for the woes of their fellow-creatures; and, to ſuch as refuſed to receive a portion of the public charity, the neceſſaries of life were privately conveyed, in ſuch a manner as could leaſt ſhock the delicacy of their diſpoſitions.

In the beginning of May, the King of Great Britain ſet out for Hanover, after having appointed a regency, and concerted vigorous meaſures for diſtreſſing the enemy. In a few days after his departure, the ſpouſals of the Princeſs Mary were celebrated by proxy, the Duke of Cumberland repreſenting the Prince of Heſſe, and in June the princeſs embarked for the continent. This month was likewiſe marked by the death of his Pruſſian majeſty, a prince by no means remarkable for great or amiable qualities. He was ſucceeded on the throne by Frederic his eldeſt ſon, the late king of that realm, who ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a warrior and legiſlator. In Auguſt, the King of Great Britain concluded a treaty with the Landgrave of Heſſe, who engaged to furniſh

him with a body of ſix thouſand men for four years, in conſideration of an annual ſubſidy of two hundred and fifty thouſand crowns.

The force of the Britiſh arms was chiefly directed againſt the Weſt-India ſettlements of the Spaniards, and the reduction of Porto Bello was conſidered only as an earneſt of more deciſive ſucceſs in that quarter of the world. Intelligence being received, that a ſtrong ſquadron of Spaniſh ſhips of war waited at Ferrol for orders to ſail to their American ſettlements, Sir John Norris ſailed with a powerful fleet from Spithead, to diſpute their voyage; and the Duke of Cumberland ſerved in perſon as a volunteer in this expedition: but, after divers fruitleſs efforts, he was, by contrary winds, obliged to lie inactive for the greateſt part of the ſummer in Torbay; and, upon advice that the French and Spaniſh ſquadrons had ſailed to the Weſt-Indies in conjunction, the deſign againſt Ferrol was wholly laid aſide. But the hopes of the nation centered chiefly in a formidable armament deſigned for the northern coaſt of New Spain, and his catholic majeſty's other ſettlements on that ſide of the Atlantic. Commiſſions had been iſſued for raiſing a regiment of four battalions in the Engliſh colonies of North America, that they might be tranſported to Jamaica, and join the forces from England. Theſe, conſiſting of the marines, and detachments from ſome old regiments, were embarked in October at the Iſle of Wight, under the command of Lord Cathcart, a nobleman of approved honour and great experience in the art of war; and they ſailed under convoy of Sir Chaloner Ogle, with a fleet of ſeven-and-twenty ſhips of the line, beſides frigates, fireſhips, bomb-ketches, and tenders. They were likewiſe furniſhed with hoſpital-ſhips, and ſtore-ſhips, laden with proviſion, ammunition, all ſorts of warlike implements, and every kind of convenience. Never was an armament more completely equipped; and never had the nation more reaſon to hope for extraordinary ſucceſs.

On

On the 20th of October, Charles VI. Emperor of Germany, the laſt prince of the houſe of Auſtria, died at Vienna, and was ſucceeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldeſt daughter, the Archduchefs Maria Thereſa, married to the Grand Duke of Tuſcany. Though this princeſs ſucceeded as Queen of Hungary, by virtue of the pragmatic ſanction guaranteed by all the powers in Europe, her ſucceſſion produced ſuch conteſts as kindled a cruel war in the empire. The young King of Pruſſia was no ſooner informed of the emperor's death, than he entered Sileſia at the head of twenty thouſand men; ſeized certain fiefs to which his family laid claim; and publiſhed a manifeſto, declaring that he had no intention to contravene the pragmatic ſanction. The Elector of Bavaria refuſed to acknowledge the archduchefs as Queen of Hungary and Bohemia; alleging, that he himſelf had pretenſions to thoſe countries, as the deſcendant of the Emperor Ferdinand I. who was head of the German branch of the houſe of Auſtria. Charles VI. was ſurvived but a few days by his ally, the czarina Anne Iwanowna, who died in the forty-fifth year of her age, after having bequeathed her crown to Iwan, or John, the infant ſon of her niece, the Princeſs Anne of Mecklenbourg, who had been married to Anthony Ulrick, Duke of Brunſwick Lunenburg Bevern. She appointed the Duke of Courland regent of the empire, and even guardian of the young czar, though his own parents were alive: but this diſpoſition was not long maintained.

Admiral Vernon did not remain long inactive after his return to Jamaica from his expedition againſt Porto Bello. He had been joined by the Greenwich man of war, with fireſhips, bomb-veſſels, and ſtoreſhips. The Burford, on-board of which the admiral had hoiſted his flag at the taking of Porto Bello, having run upon a rock off Point Canoa, was found ſo leaky when ſhe came into Port Royal, that ſhe was obliged

obliged to be careened before she could again put to sea; the admiral therefore hoisted his flag on-board the Strafford, and proceeded to sea the latter end of February, having with him the Strafford, Princess Louisa, Windsor, Greenwich, and Norwich. The Burford was ordered to follow as soon as she could be got ready, as was also the Torrington. The admiral's design was to make an attack upon Carthagena.

This place is rendered important by its harbour, which is one of the best that is known. It is two leagues in extent, and has a deep and excellent bottom. There the waters are less agitated than on the calmest rivers. At the time we are speaking of, there was no passage into this harbour but by the canal of Bocca Chica, which was so narrow, that only one vessel could pass without being exposed to the cross batteries of forts erected on both sides.

The admiral proceeded on his way with a favourable wind, and on the 1st of March he got sight of the high land of St. Martha, on the Spanish main, and after ordering Captain Windham, in the Greenwich, to ply up in the night and lie to windward of the port, for intercepting whatever might be going in there, the admiral bore away with an easy sail for Carthagena.

On the 3d at noon he was joined by the Falmouth, Captain Douglas, and that evening he anchored before the town with his squadron, in nine fathom water, in the open bay called Playa Grande; and on the 6th he ordered in all the bomb-ketches, with the small ships and tenders for covering and assisting them, and continued bombarding till nine in the morning. The squadron received no damage from the town; but our shells fell there with pretty good success, particularly into the principal church, the Jesuit's college, and the custom house, demolishing several houses between them; and a shell which fell upon the south bastion silenced a battery of ten guns there for a long time.

The inhabitants were all this time in the utmost consternation;

ſternation; but our ſquadron was too inconſiderable to attempt any thing further; and accordingly the admiral, after giving orders to the ſeveral captains, that in caſe of ſeparation, after leaving their preſent ſtation off Carthagena, they ſhould make the beſt of their way to the next general rendezvous, either in the harbour of Porto Bello, or off the mouth of the river Chagre in the bay, to the eaſtward of it, weighed on the 9th, and made ſail with his ſquadron.

After making the ſignal for the line of battle, he coaſted along the ſhore towards Bocca Chica, obſerving at that time the particulars for regulating any future deſcent that might be intended againſt Carthagena, while the Spaniards fired at him from the three ſmall caſtles without Bocca Chica, though none of their ſhot reached him.

The admiral having received intelligence, that Don Joſeph de Herrera in the Vizara, a Spaniſh man of war, had received orders from Don Blas de Leſo, governor of Carthagena, to come and join him at that place, together with the St. Juan, another Spaniſh man of war, and a ſnow; he on the 9th ordered Captain Berkley in the Windſor, with the Greenwich, Captain Wyndham, to cruiſe off the port of Carthagena for twenty days, to intercept, take, or deſtroy, the ſaid men of war, but more eſpecially to watch the motions of the galleons. After this the admiral made ſail for Porto Bello, in order to repair the damage which the ſmall craft had received in the late expedition.

On the 13th, being joined by Captain Knowles in the Diamond, the admiral ordered him to go on-board the Succeſs fireſhip, and, accompanied with the brig tender, to get off the mouth of the Chagre, and there make all proper obſervations, how the fort at the mouth of that river might be attacked, whether by bombardment or cannonading; and particularly to inform himſelf of the ſoundings and depth of water thereabouts,

abouts, to be certain how near any of the ſhips could approach, and to obſerve what convenient landing places might be near, and return to the admiral as ſoon as he could, who would be making an eaſy ſail after him, and lie off the ſaid river till he ſhould receive information on which he was to form his future plan of operations.

Next day the admiral anchored with his ſquadron in Porto Bello harbour, and on the 18th detached the Eleanor with another ſloop to cruiſe off the mouth of the Chagre for ſeven days, or till the ſquadron ſhould appear off that river, in order to prevent the Spaniſh privateer ſloops from putting to ſea from thence, and to intercept any thing that might be coming thither. The Strafford and Norwich, with all the ſmall veſſels, being watered, the admiral got out to ſea on the 22d, being the better enabled to undertake the expedition, as, during his ſtay at Porto Bello, he had got an exact draught of all the coaſt from Porto Bello to Chagre, and of the mouth of that river, and the ſhoal before it, from Lowther the pirate, who, by this piece of ſervice to his country, took the opportunity of obtaining his pardon, and returning to England: he at the ſame time had left orders with the Louiſa and Falmouth to haſten their watering, and then follow him. But, an accident in the admiral's fore-top-ſail yard retarding his progreſs, he ordered Captain Herbert, in the Norwich, to make all the ſail he could, and enter the harbour of Chagre before him, with the bomb-ketches, and all the fireſhips and tenders under his command, with Captain Knowles as engineer; to place the bomb-ſloops in order for playing on the caſtle of St. Lorenzo, at the mouth of the river, and to cover them with his own and the other ſhips then there.

The ſame day, by three in the afternoon, Captain Knowles got to anchor, and began bombarding and cannonading that evening. By ten at night the admiral got alſo to an anchor with his own ſhip the Strafford,

ford, as did the Falmouth and Princeſs Louiſa, which followed him the ſame night. They continued bombarding, and three ſhips kept firing leiſurely the guns of their lower tier till Monday the 24th, when the Spaniards hung out a flag of truce from the fort, which the admiral anſwered from his own ſhip. Then, ſtopping any farther execution as ſoon as poſſible, he ſent Captain Knowles aſhore, who ſoon returned with Don Juan Carlos Gutierer de Ranettas, governor of the fort, to whom the admiral granted a capitulation, the ſubſtance of which was, that, upon his Britannic majeſty's troops being put into immediate poſſeſſion of fort St. Lorenzo, the guarda-coſta ſloops, and the King of Spain's cuſtom-houſe, being alſo delivered up, the governor, with his garriſon, might march where they pleaſed, and the town of Chagre be preſerved in all their immunities.

The capitulation being thus ſettled and agreed to, the admiral ſent the governor aſhore with Captain Knowles, appointing the latter governor of the caſtle for his Britannic majeſty, and a garriſon with him of five lieutenants and one hundred and twenty men, with all the boats of the fleet to land them: by three o'clock that afternoon, Captain Knowles entered the fort with his garriſon. The ſame evening Knowles placed a guard upon the cuſtom-houſe, lying on the oppoſite ſide of the river Chagre; and the admiral came on-ſhore himſelf by day-break next morning, to give the neceſſary orders; when, finding the cuſtom-houſe full of goods for loading the galleons, ſuch as guayaquil cacao, jeſuit's bark, and Spaniſh wool, he gave immediate orders for their being ſhipped off. The number of ſerons and bags of goods amounted to forty-three hundred. The two guarda-coſta ſloops in the river, being all that were left in thoſe parts, were ſunk juſt above the cuſtom-houſe, after their decks were firſt broken up, and otherwiſe rendered uſeleſs. The cuſtom-houſe, being entirely cleared by Friday

the 28th, was filled with combuſtible matter and ſet on fire that evening, which burnt with great fierceneſs all that night. On the 29th in the morning, eleven braſs cannon, and as many patteraroes of the ſame metal, together with the Engliſh garriſon, being embarked, mines were ſprung under the lower baſtion which entirely demoliſhed it; then two more were ſprung to blow up ſome of the upper parts of the works; and afterwards all the inner buildings of the caſtle were ſet on fire and kept burning all the night of the 29th. On the 30th, Vernon put to ſea with his ſquadron; and on the 1ſt of April, in the evening, he got to the mouth of the harbour of Porto Bello, where he was joined by the Windſor and Greenwich, juſt arrived from their cruiſe off Carthagena: and on the 2d he was alſo joined by the Burford. Admiral Vernon with the chief of his ſquadron ſoon after returned to Jamaica, and on the 3d of May he arrived ſafe at Port Royal.

In the town and fort of Chagre were found two thouſand eight hundred and ninety-two ſerons, two butts, and five hogſheads, of cocoa; one thouſand two hundred and forty ſerons, four butts, four hogſheads, and twelve puncheons, of jeſuit's bark, and three hundred and twenty-ſeven bales of Viconia wool; the whole valued at 70,000l. beſides plate and other effects to a conſiderable amount; ſo that the officers and ſeamen were handſomely rewarded for reducing the caſtle. About the beginning of June, Admiral Vernon received advice by a packet, ſent expreſs to him from Lord Tyrawley, the Britiſh miniſter at Liſbon, that the Spaniſh ſquadron was ſailed from Cadiz, and ſuppoſed to be deſigned for the Weſt-Indies; whereupon the admiral ſailed out immediately with his ſquadron upon a cruiſe to the windward, hoping to have the good fortune to meet with them in their paſſage; but after cruiſing for ſome days, and receiving no information concerning them, he returned to Jamaica.

The

The abatement of this commander's zeal firſt appeared in the ſhortneſs of this cruiſe.

Admiral Vernon now became the idol of the people, being looked upon as another Drake or Ruſſel in England, a ſecond Raleigh or Blake in America, and a high veneration was paid to his name among all ranks and conditions of men in the Britiſh dominions. His majeſty was ſo fully perſuaded of the admiral's zeal for his ſervice, and his good conduct in taking ſuch meaſures as would moſt effectually conduce thereto, that he left it entirely to his diſcretion to act againſt the Spaniards in ſuch manner and in ſuch places as ſhould appear to him beſt for anſwering the ends propoſed by his majeſty's former orders. His majeſty alſo gave particular commands to the Duke of Newcaſtle, to aſſure the admiral of his entire approbation of his conduct in the late expedition, and the humanity with which he treated the inhabitants after the reduction of Porto Bello.

The Princeſſa, a Spaniſh man of war, having ſixty-eight guns and ſix hundred men, happened to fall in with the Lenox, on-board of which was Commodore Maine, the Kent, Captain Durell, and the Orford, Lord Auguſtus Fitzroy. The Spaniſh ſhip was high built, and thereby poſſeſſed the advantage of being able to fire her lower tier of guns in bad weather. She was larger than our firſt-rates, her guns of an uncommon ſize, and moſt of them braſs. She was eſteemed one of the fineſt veſſels in the navy of Spain. The action began about eleven in the morning, and was maintained with great firmneſs, though with a cool and deliberate valour, until a quarter after five in the afternoon, when the Spaniſh captain ſtruck to Lord Auguſtus Fitzroy. When ſhe was brought into Portſmouth, her ſtrength, and the appearance of the ſlaughter which had been made among her crew, teſtified the obſtinacy of the combat. Captain Durell had one of his hands ſhot away in the action. She was taken off Cape Finiſterre.

The king having returned to England from his German dominions, the ſeſſion of parliament was opened in November, 1740. His majeſty aſſured them, on this occaſion, that he was determined to proſecute the war vigorouſly, even though France ſhould eſpouſe the cauſe of Spain, as her late conduct ſeemed to favour this ſuppoſition. He took notice of the emperor's death, as an event which in all likelihood would open a new ſcene of affairs in Europe: he therefore recommended to their conſideration the neceſſary ſupplies for putting the nation in ſuch a poſture that it ſhould have nothing to fear from any emergency.

A very hot conteſt aroſe from a bill which the miniſtry brought in under the ſpecious title of, A bill for the encouragement and increaſe of ſeamen, and for the better and ſpeedier manning his majeſty's fleet. This was a revival of an oppreſſive ſcheme which had been rejected in the former ſeſſion; a ſcheme by which the juſtices of the peace were empowered to iſſue warrants to conſtables and headboroughs, to ſearch by day or night for ſuch ſea-faring men as ſhould conceal themſelves within their reſpective juriſdictions. Theſe ſearchers were veſted with authority to force open doors, in caſe of reſiſtance; and encouraged to this violence by a reward for every ſeaman they ſhould diſcover; while the unhappy wretches ſo diſcovered were dragged into the ſervice, and their names entered in a regiſter to be kept at the navy or the admiralty-office. Such a plan of tyranny did not paſs uncenſured. Every exceptionable clauſe produced a warm debate, in which Sir John Barnard, Mr. Pulteney, Mr. Sandys, Lord Gage, Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Lyttelton, ſignalized themſelves nobly in defending the liberties of their fellow ſubjects. Mr. Pitt having expreſſed a laudable indignation at ſuch a large ſtride towards deſpotic power, in juſtification of which nothing could be urged but the plea of neceſſity,

neceſſity, Mr. H. Walpole thought proper to attack him with ſome perſonal ſarcaſms. He reflected upon his youth; and obſerved that the diſcovery of truth was very little promoted by pompous diction and theatrical emotion. Theſe inſinuations expoſed him to a ſevere reply: Mr. Pitt, ſtanding up again, ſaid, "He would not undertake to determine whether youth could be juſtly imputed to any man as a reproach; but he affirmed, that the wretch, who after having ſeen the conſequences of repeated errors, continues ſtill to blunder, and whoſe age has only added obſtinacy to ſtupidity, is ſurely the object of either abhorrence or contempt, and deſerves not that his grey head ſhould ſecure him from inſults: much more is he to be abhorred, who, as he has advanced in age, has receded from virtue, and becomes more wicked with leſs temptation; who proſtitutes himſelf for money which he cannot enjoy; and ſpends the remains of his life in the ruin of his country."—Petitions were preſented from the city of London, and county of Glouceſter, againſt the bill, as detrimental to the trade and navigation of the kingdom, by diſcouraging rather than encouraging ſailors, and deſtructive to the liberties of the ſubjects: but they were both rejected as inſults upon the houſe of commons. After very long debates, maintained on both ſides with extraordinary ardour and emotion, the ſevere clauſes were dropped, and the bill paſſed with amendments.

But the moſt remarkable incident of this ſeſſion was an open and perſonal attack upon the miniſter, who was become extremely unpopular all over the kingdom. The people were now, more than ever, ſenſible of the grievous taxes under which they groaned; and ſaw their burthens daily increaſing. No effectual attempt had as yet been made to annoy the enemy. Expenſive ſquadrons had been equipped; had made excurſions, and returned without ſtriking a blow. The Spaniſh fleet had failed firſt from Cadiz, and

and then from Ferrol, without any interruption from Admiral Haddock, who commanded the Britiſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean, and who was ſuppoſed to be reſtricted by the inſtructions he had received from the miniſtry, though in fact his want of ſucceſs was owing to accident. Admiral Vernon had written from the Weſt-Indies to his private friends, that he was neglected, and in danger of being ſacrificed. Notwithſtanding the numerous navy which the nation maintained, the Spaniſh privateers made prize of the Britiſh merchant ſhips with impunity. In violation of treaties, and in contempt of that intimate connection which had been ſo long cultivated between the French and Engliſh miniſtry, the King of France had ordered the harbour and fortifications of Dunkirk to be repaired: his fleet had ſailed to the Weſt-Indies, in conjunction with that of Spain; and the merchants of England began to tremble for Jamaica: finally, commerce was in a manner ſuſpended, by the practice of preſſing ſailors into the ſervice, and by the embargo which had been laid upon ſhips, in all the ports of Great Britain and Ireland. Theſe cauſes of popular diſcontent, added to other complaints which had been ſo long repeated againſt the miniſter, exaggerated and inculcated by his enemies with unwearied induſtry, at length produced a motion for an addreſs to the king, that he would be pleaſed to remove Sir Robert Walpole from his preſence and councils for ever. Mr. Pelham undertook to defend or excuſe all the meaſures which others had condemned: and acquitted himſelf as a warm friend and unſhaken adherent. Againſt this champion Sir John Barnard entered the liſts, and was ſuſtained by Mr. Pulteney, who, with equal ſpirit and preciſion, pointed out and expoſed all the material errors and mal-practices of the adminiſtration. Sir Robert Walpole ſpoke with great temper and deliberation in behalf of himſelf. With reſpect to the article of bribery and corruption, he ſaid,

" if

" if any one inſtance had been mentioned; if it had been ſhewn that he ever offered a reward to any member of either houſe, or ever threatened to deprive any member of his office or employment, in order to influence his voting in parliament; there might have been ſome ground for his charge: but when it was ſo generally laid, he did not know what he could ſay to it, unleſs to deny it as generally and as poſitively as it had been aſſerted."—Such a declaration as this, in the hearing of ſo many perſons, who not only knew, but ſubſiſted by his wages of corruption, was a ſtrong proof of the miniſter's being dead to all ſenſe of ſhame, and all regard to veracity. The debate was protracted by the court members till three o'clock in the morning, when, about ſixty of the oppoſite party having retired, the motion was rejected by a conſiderable majority.

The commons voted forty thouſand ſeamen for the ſervice of the enſuing year, and about thirty thouſand men for the eſtabliſhment of land-forces. They provided for the ſubſidies granted to the King of Denmark and the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel; and took every ſtep which was ſuggeſted for the eaſe and the convenience of the government.

On the 18th of March, 1741, an addreſs was preſented to his majeſty by both houſes of parliament, congratulating him on Admiral Vernon's ſucceſs, by entering the port and taking the town of Porto Bello, and demoliſhing all the forts and caſtles belonging thereto, " with ſix ſhips of war only;" and repreſenting, that it could not fail of giving the utmoſt joy to all his majeſty's ſubjects, ſince it afforded the moſt reaſonable hopes that it might highly contribute to the obtaining real and effectual ſecurity of thoſe juſt rights of navigation and commerce belonging to his majeſty's ſubjects, for the preſervation of which his majeſty had entered into that neceſſary war. An addreſs was alſo preſented to his majeſty by the city of London

don on the ſame occaſion. The parliament voted, that the thanks of both houſes ſhould be tranſmitted to the admiral for his eminent ſervices. And the citizens of London, as a farther mark of diſtinction, voted him the freedom of the city, to be preſented to him in a gold box.

In the beginning of April, the king, repairing to the houſe of peers, paſſed ſome acts that were ready for the royal aſſent. Then, in his ſpeech to both houſes, he gave them to underſtand, that the Queen of Hungary had made a requiſition of the twelve thouſand men ſtipulated by the treaty; and that he had ordered the ſubſidy-troops of Denmark and Heſſe Caſſel to be in readineſs to march to her aſſiſtance. He obſerved, that in this complicated and uncertain ſtate of affairs, many incidents might ariſe, and render it neceſſary for him to incur extraordinary expences for maintaining the pragmatic ſanction, at a time when he could not poſſibly have recourſe to the advice and aſſiſtance of his parliament. He, therefore, demanded of the commons ſuch a ſupply as might be requiſite for theſe ends; and promiſed to manage it with all poſſible frugality. The lower houſe, in their addreſs, approved of all his meaſures; and reſolved, that 300,000l. ſhould be granted to his majeſty, to enable him effectually to ſupport the Queen of Hungary. Towards the expence of this year, a million was deducted from the ſinking-fund: and the land-tax continued at four ſhillings in the pound. The preparations for this war had already coſt five millions. The ſeſſion was cloſed on the 25th day of April, when the king took his leave of this parliament, with warm expreſſions of tenderneſs and ſatisfaction. Henry Bromley, Stephen Fox, and John Howe, three members of the lower houſe, who had ſignalized themſelves in defence of the miniſter, were now ennobled, and created Barons of Montford, Ilcheſter, and Chedworth. A camp was formed near Colcheſter;

cheſter; and the king, having appointed a regency, ſet out in May for his German dominions.

It will now be neceſſary to follow Sir Chaloner Ogle, with his fleet, to the Weſt-Indies. Soon after he had cleared the channel, he was overtaken by a tempeſt, which diſperſed his fleet; and as he had the outward-bound merchantmen under his convoy, the whole amounted to one hundred and ſeventy ſail: but this diſaſter did not prevent him from proſecuting his voyage without putting into port. The 19th of December he arrived at the neutral Carribbean iſland of Dominica, where Lord Cathcart died of a dyſentery the day after their arrival. His lordſhip had been indefatigable to procure every poſſible information reſpecting the ſituation and ſtrength of the enemy in the Weſt-Indies, and was a man every way qualified to command on the ſervice upon which he was ſent. His courage was unqueſtionable, and this quality was properly tempered with prudent caution: he was greatly beloved both by the officers and the ſoldiers for his humanity, generoſity, and affability; his death was therefore prophetically deemed a loſs to his country, eſpecially as it was followed by the death of General Spotſwood in Virginia, whoſe experience in military affairs would have contributed much to the ſucceſs of our deſigns in the Weſt-Indies. The loſs of Lord Cathcart was yet more ſeverely felt, as the command of the land-forces devolved upon General Wentworth, whoſe chief merit conſiſted in being in favour with thoſe in power.

On the 27th of December, Admiral Ogle arrived at St. Chriſtopher's, the place of rendezvous appointed for the fleet: here he found many of the tranſports and men of war that had been ſeparated during the ſtorm; the next day he ſailed with his whole force for Jamaica. In ſailing along the iſland of St. Domingo, four large ſhips were diſcovered under ſail; the admiral hereupon detached an equal number from his

ſquadron to give them chace, whilſt he kept on his courſe. Lord Auguſtus Fitzroy, in the Orford, having the command of this detachment, threw out ſignals for the ſhips which he was following to bring to, which they refuſing to comply with, he ſaluted them with a broadſide, which was returned, and a ſharp action followed, which was maintained during the night. In the morning the ſtrange ſhips hoiſted their colours, and appeared to be part of the French ſquadron which had ſailed from Europe under the command of the Marquis d'Antin, with orders to aſſiſt the Spaniſh admiral de Torres, in attacking and diſtreſſing the Engliſh ſhips and colonies. As war had not yet been declared between France and England, no ſooner was the French flag diſplayed, than hoſtilities ceaſed; the Engliſh and French commanders behaved with great politeneſs to each other, mutually exchanged apologies for their miſtake, and parted as friends, after many men had been killed on each ſide.

In the mean time Sir Chaloner Ogle arrived at Jamaica, where he joined Vice-admiral Vernon, who now found himſelf at the head of the moſt formidable fleet and army that ever viſited thoſe ſeas, with full power to act at diſcretion. The conjoined ſquadrons conſiſted of twenty-nine ſhips of the line, with almoſt an equal number of frigates, fireſhips, and bomb-ketches, well manned, and plentifully ſupplied with all kinds of proviſions, ſtores, and neceſſaries. The number of ſeamen amounted to fifteen thouſand: that of the land-forces, including the American regiment of four battalions, and a body of negroes enliſted at Jamaica, did not fall ſhort of twelve thouſand. Had this armament been ready to act in the proper ſeaſon of the year, under the conduct of wiſe experienced officers, united in counſels and ſteadily attached to the intereſt and honour of their country, the Havannah, and whole iſland of Cuba, might have been eaſily reduced: the whole treaſure of the Spaniſh Weſt-

Indies

Indies would have been intercepted; and Spain muſt have been humbled into the moſt abject ſubmiſſion. But ſeveral unfavourable circumſtances concurred to fruſtrate the hopes of the public. The miniſtry had detained Sir Chaloner Ogle at Spithead without any viſible cauſe, until the ſeaſon for action was almoſt exhauſted: for, on the continent of New Spain, the periodical rains begin about the end of April; and this change in the atmoſphere is attended with epidemical diſtempers, which render the climate extremely unhealthy: beſides, the rain is ſo exceſſive, that for the ſpace of two months no army can keep the field.

Sir Chaloner Ogle arrived at Jamaica on the 9th of January; and Admiral Vernon did not fail on his intended expedition till towards the end of the month. Inſtead of directing his courſe to the Havannah, which lay to leeward, and might have been reached in three days, he reſolved to beat up againſt the wind to Hiſpaniola, in order to obſerve the motion of the French ſquadron, commanded by the Marquis d'Antin. The 15th of February had elapſed before he received certain information that the French admiral had ſailed for Europe, in great diſtreſs, for want of men and proviſions, which he could not procure in the Weſt-Indies. Vernon, thus diſappointed, called a council of war, in which it was determined to proceed for Carthagena, and make a vigorous attack upon that place both by ſea and land.

On the 4th of March, in the evening, the whole fleet anchored in Playa Grande, to the windward of Carthagena, lying between that and Point Canoa; and in order to harraſs the Spaniards, Vernon ordered his ſmall frigates and fireſhips to get in ſhore, and lie in a line, as if he intended a deſcent to windward of the town: this obliged the Spaniſh governor to divide his force, by ordering a detachment that way, which threw up entrenchments for their ſecurity. Although Admiral de Torres had already ſailed with the Spa-

nish fleet to the Havannah, yet Carthagena was strongly fortified, and the garrison strengthened by reinforcements from the crews of some large ships which lay in the harbour, commanded by Don Blas de Leso, an officer of experience and reputation.

Though the sea washes the walls of Carthagena, the town is inaccessible on that side by reason of the surf, the water shoaling near a league off: so that it can only be approached by the lake which forms the harbour, and is bounded by rocks: besides, the sea is very seldom smooth, so that landing is at all times very difficult. The only entrance into the harbour is near a league to the west of the city, between two narrow peninsulas, one called the Tierra Bomba, which is nearest the city, and the other called the Barradera. This passage, called *Bocca Chica*, or the Little Mouth, was defended on the Tierra Bomba by the castle St. Louis, a regular square, with four bastions, mounted with eighty-two guns and three mortars; but the glacis and counterscarp had not been finished. To this were added the fort of St. Philip, mounted with seven guns; the fort of St. Jago, with fifteen guns; and a small fort of four guns, called Battery de Chamba, which served as redoubts to the castle of Bocca Chica. On the other side of the mouth of the harbour was a fascine battery of fifteen guns, called the Barradera; and, in a small bay on the back of that, another battery of four guns; and facing the entrance of the harbour, on a small flat island, stood fort St. Joseph, of twenty-one guns. From this fort to Bocca Chica castle, a boom and cables were fixed across, fastened with three large anchors at each end; and just within the boom four men of war were moored in a line, on-board one of which was the Spanish admiral. These spread so far over the extent of the mouth of the harbour, that no ship could pass ahead or astern of them. Beyond this passage lies the great lake, or harbour of Carthagena,

two

two leagues and a half in extent from north to ſouth, and land-locked on all ſides; about midway to the town it grows narrower, and within about a league of the town, two points of land jut out from the ſmaller harbour; near the northermoſt of theſe was the ſtrong fortreſs of Caſtille Grande, about eight miles up the harbour, being a regular ſquare with four baſtions, defended to the land by a wet ditch and glacis proper, and one face towards the ſea with a raveline, and double line of guns. The number of guns in the fort was fifty-nine, though it had room to mount ſixty-one. Oppoſite to this caſtle was a horſe-ſhoe battery of twelve guns, called Mancinilla. In the middle, betweeen theſe two forts, is a large ſhoal, with not above two or three feet water. In each of theſe were ſhips ſunk to prevent the Britiſh fleet from getting in. Near three miles further up the harbour, on two flat ſandy keys, or iſlands, ſtands Carthagena, and Himani, its ſuburbs, both irregular figures, but well fortified to the land with lakes, and moraſſes running round them. The city, which is in latitude 10. 26. N. was defended with one hundred and ſixty guns, and the ſuburbs with one hundred and forty, and the water at the head of the ſhoal is ſo far off, that ſhips cannot approach near enough to do any material execution. South of the city, about a quarter of a mile from Himani gate, on an eminence about fifty or ſixty feet high, ſtands the caſtle of St. Lazaro, being a ſquare of about fifty feet, with three demy baſtions, and two guns in each face, one in each flank, and three in each curtain; it overlooks all the town, although there is a brow of a hill about four hundred yards from it, which overlooks, and entirely commands it.

The importance of this place to the Spaniards had induced them to beſtow ſuch extraordinary attention in ſecuring it from the attack of an enemy. The wealth which centred in this city had, indeed, expoſed it to repeated aſſaults; in 1544, the American buccaneers

neers made a ſucceſsful attack upon it, and enriched themſelves with its ſpoil. In 1585 it was taken, and almoſt deſtroyed, by Sir Francis Drake, that ſcourge of the new Spaniſh ſettlements. M. de Pointis came before it in 1697, with a ſquadron of privateers, under the protection of the French king; and after obliging the fort of Bocca Chica to ſurrender, whereby the entrance of the bay was laid open, he landed his men, and beſieged fort Lazaro, the taking of which was followed by the ſurrender of the city. This conqueſt has been attributed to a private correſpondence between the governor and Pointis. Since that time, every precaution had been taken to increaſe the ſtrength of the place, which, at the time that Admiral Vernon appeared before it, was deemed impregnable.

The Britiſh troops were landed on the 9th of March, on the iſland of Tierra Bomba, near the mouth of the harbour, which was ſecured by caſtles, batteries, bombs, chains, cables, and ſhips of war. General Wentworth, with Brigadier Guiſe and Colonel Wolfe, attended the landing, which was effected with little loſs, covered by the fire of the Norfolk, Ruſſel, and Shrewſbury, which ſhips anchored cloſe under the forts of St. Jago and St. Philip. The latter, lying ſouthermoſt, had her cable cut by the Spaniſh ſhot, and before ſhe could let down another anchor, having fallen to leeward, drove towards the mouth of the harbour, where ſhe lay expoſed to the whole fire of the Spaniards, from two faſcine batteries on the Barradera ſide, the forts of Bocca Chica and St. Joſeph, with four men of war, of ſixty and ſeventy guns: in this ſituation one hundred and ſixty guns were pointed at the Shrewſbury, who could return no more than twenty-ſix. The gallant Captain Townſend, who commanded her, diſdaining to retire, maintained this unequal combat for ſeven hours. Night intervening, the Spaniards ceaſed firing, when the admiral ſent orders for the Shrewſbury to draw off. In this rencounter

counter ſhe loſt twenty men killed, and forty wounded; the ſhip received two hundred and fifty ſhot in her hull, ſixteen of which were between wind and water, whilſt her maſts, yards, and rigging, were entirely ſhot away. Gradual advances were made in the attack of the works, which defended the entrance of the harbour; and on the 12th, the Ludlow Caſtle began to throw ſhells into Bocca Chica, from a mortar which ſhe had on-board. The next day a bomb battery was completed on ſhore, which played in the ſame direction; but it was not until the 15th that the landing of the artillery and ordnance was completed.

No ſooner were the land-forces debarked, than they found themſelves more annoyed by the climate than by the Spaniſh forts. Here all the fervid heat of the torrid zone is reflected from a white burning ſand. The appalling heat of the day is ſucceeded by malignant nightly damps, which the moſt robuſt conſtitutions are unable to withſtand. Sickneſs prevailed among the Britiſh troops, and the engineers who conducted the approaches were both dilatory and unſkilful; a diſagreement between the admiral and general had ariſen, while the cloſe connection between the operations of the troops and the fleet furniſhed occaſion for its daily increaſe. Each ſought every opportunity to expreſs his diſlike of the other; and, inſtead of acting vigorouſly in concert, their antipathy became ſo ſtrong, that their zeal in the ſervice of their country was abſorbed in private reſentment. The bravery of the men, however, ſerved to ſupply the want of unanimity in their leaders. Three hundred ſailors and two hundred ſoldiers proceeded by night in boats to attack a faſcine battery on the Barradera. Captain Boſcawen led the ſeamen to the attack, and Captains Waſhington and Murray commanded the ſoldiers. This party landed in a ſmall ſandy bay, to leeward of the battery. They had no ſooner quitted their boats, than ſome cannon, which had been ſecretly planted

on

on the ſtrand, began to play upon them. The ſailors, being the fartheſt advanced, ſuſtained all the ſeverity of the ſhock. Had their courage forſaken them in that exigency, the whole detachment would have been ſwept away, but the peril of their ſituation ſerved only to inſpire them with a contempt of danger; they ruſhed in at the embraſures, made themſelves maſters of the battery before the enemy could charge their guns a ſecond time, and by proving themſelves ſuperior to danger removed it. The firing of theſe guns gave a general alarm. The Spaniards at the larger battery fired with a grape ſhot as the ſailors advanced, but without effect, for the guns were pointed too high. The conteſt was deſperate, but very ſhort: the ſailors with irreſiſtable ſpirit carried the battery, nailed up the guns, and after ſetting fire to the platforms, carriages, guard-houſes, and magazines, returned to the ſhips with ſix wounded priſoners, having themſelves ſuſtained but little loſs. For their bravery in this ſervice, the admiral diſtributed a dollar to each man.

The deſtruction of this battery freed the troops from the greateſt annoyance of their camp, and gave them an opportunity of working quietly on their grand battery, which was conſtructed in a wood, to prevent the enemy diſcovering it till completed, and was to play againſt the caſtle of Bocca Chica. But ſo dilatory or negligent were the engineers, though aſſiſted with five hundred ſeamen, and two hundred and fifty blacks, beſides as many pioneers as could be ſpared from the army, that a whole week was ſpent, and the battery far from being in any condition to incommode the caſtle. This gave the vice-admiral great concern, who expected the engineers would have ſeconded the ſucceſs on the Barradera ſide, by opening their battery againſt Bocca Chica, which had been poſitively promiſed to be done at the ſame time.

On the 20th, at day-break, the garriſon of Bocca Chica

Chica began a warm fire at the bomb-battery, though without doing any particular damage. But the Spaniards, ſenſible of the advantageous ſituation and utility of the Barradera battery, had been diligently repairing it, and on the 21ſt had built up ſome embraſures and mounted two guns, with which they again played on the bomb-battery, but were ſoon ſilenced by the Ripon, which the vice-admiral ordered to anchor as near as poſſible to it, and keep firing to prevent any farther working on the levelled battery.

It was now reſolved by the commanders of the fleet, to make a general attack upon all the forts and batteries; and Commodore Leſtock was appointed to that ſervice, with three eighty-gun ſhips, and three ſeventy; ſuch a force being all that could be drawn up, without danger of the ſhips annoying each other. Accordingly, on the 23d, Leſtock, in the Boyne, with the Prince Frederick, Hampton-court, Princeſs Amelia, Suffolk, and Tilbury, went in to batter Bocca Chica caſtle, and the four ſhips poſted there, namely, the Galicia, the admiral's ſhip, San Carlos, Africa, and St. Philip, all mounting upwards of ſixty guns, and in the moſt advantageous poſition, both for oppoſing any attempt of ſlipping into the harbour, or to annoy any battery that could be raiſed aſhore; and, as the Spaniſh ſhips had no interruption from the latter, they failed not to play as briſkly on the commodore, and with greater execution than the caſtle. In the mean time, the Boyne, falling ſo far to leeward, as to lie expoſed to the whole fire of the Spaniſh ſhips and fort St. Joſeph, was very much ſhattered, and ordered off again that night, while the reſt ſtill continued there. Among theſe the Princeſs Amelia, belonging to Sir Chaloner Ogle's diviſion, having fallen farther to leeward than was intended, lay fair to ſilence the new-mounted guns on the faſcine battery, which ſhe did accordingly: and this proved a great preſervative to thoſe who played the battery againſt

the caſtle, and alſo to the men in camp, into which the ſhot, fired from the faſcine battery, flew over the hill, and annoyed the ſoldiers. The Prince Frederick and Hampton-court, ſharing now between them the fire which had been employed againſt the Boyne, were alſo much ſhattered by morning, when the vice-admiral was obliged to call them off, after they had many of their men killed and wounded; and, among the former, the commander of the Prince Frederick, Lord Aubrey Beauclerc, who was an officer both of courage and of a cool temper. The Suffolk and Tilbury, being well anchored to the northward, lay ſucceſsfully battering againſt the breach till evening, at which time every thing appearing fit for an aſſault, they were ordered off.

Every impediment being at length removed, by the bravery of the ſeamen, that prevented the army making an aſſault on Bocca Chica, General Wentworth, on the 25th, in the evening, directed the troops to move forward, whilſt Captain Knowles, with a number of ſeamen in boats, made a favourable diverſion, and threw the Spaniards into great confuſion. Brigadier Blakeney, who was the commander of the day, had the direction of the aſſault. Upon a ſignal given, a volley of round ſhot was poured in upon the breach from the great-gun battery, and was immediately followed by a ſecond of grape ſhot, which drove the centinels from the walls. No ſooner did the grenadiers begin to mount the breach, than the Spaniſh garriſon was diſmayed, and fled in confuſion. Don Blas de Leſo, who commanded the Spaniſh ſhips that were ſtationed at the mouth of the harbour, ſeeing the firmneſs with which the attack was made, gave orders for every ſhip to be ſcuttled. The Africa and San Carlos preſently ſunk; the St. Philip was ſet on fire; and the crews hurried ſo precipitately into their boats, that they rowed off, leaving the captain and ſixty men on board the Galicia, the only ſhip that remained.

Whilſt

Whilſt the Spaniards were thus thrown into conſternation, Captain Knowles directed the boats to row cloſe under the lee-ſhore; and from thence he ſtormed the fort of St. Joſeph, which he took poſſeſſion of about ten o'clock that night, the Spaniards abandoning it after having fired ſome few guns. The captains Knowles and Watſon, being now within the boom, rowed their boats up to the Galicia, made the captain, and all on-board, priſoners, and ſecured the Spaniſh admiral's flag and colours. The Galicia being thus ſecured, the boats went to work on cutting the boom, and removing the ſhip out of the channel, in order to make a clear entrance for the fleet to come into the harbour.

On the 26th, being the day after taking Bocca Chica, the vice-admiral haſtened into the harbour to make proper diſpoſitions and give the neceſſary orders: but he had great difficulty to get in, as the San Carlos and Africa were ſunk in the channel, and the St. Philip continued burning on the lee-ſhore, ſo that he was above three hours warping through, after anchoring in the narrows, before he could poſſibly ſail up the harbour, which he did about two leagues that evening. In like manner the Burford and Orford were next day ordered to advance and poſt themſelves acroſs the harbour as near as poſſible, but juſt without gun-ſhot of Caſtillo Grande, in order to cut off all communication by water from the Spaniards. On the ſame day the Worceſter got up to the vice-admiral, who ſent her to anchor cloſe by a wharf where was a good crane and ſpring of water, which laſt he thought proper to ſecure for the ſervice of the fleet. The Weymouth and Cruiſer ſloop, getting in the ſame afternoon, were ordered to deſtroy the batteries at Paſſo Cavallos, a creek which parts the Grand Baru from the main, through which the ſupplies of proviſions from Tolu and Sina were to paſs, and where the Spaniards had erected two ſmall batteries, one of

eight and the other of four guns; after they had performed it, the Cruiſer went up the creek and brought away four large Sina hulks, being a kind of veſſels ſcooped out of a ſolid tree, but large enough to carry twenty tons; theſe proved very ſerviceable in watering the fleet. In the mean time the vice and rear admiral's two diviſions, with part of the tranſports, continued to ſail and warp in as faſt as they conveniently could; but were greatly retarded by blowing weather, which, by forcing all the ſmall ſhips to take ſhelter in the mouth of the harbour, ſo choaked it up as to prevent the men of war making the deſired diſpatch, often anchoring foul of one another; but, being all got in on the 30th, the fireſhips and frigates were diſpoſed round the harbour in order to guard every paſs and creek, and to cut off any ſupplies going to the town; while Commodore Leſtock with his diviſion was left at Bocca Chica with orders to reembark the forces and cannon as ſoon as poſſible.

The fort of Caſtillo Grande was the next fortification which oppoſed their advances towards the town of Carthagena, for the ſecurity of which the Spaniards had moored and ſunk ſeven of their galleons, and other ſhips, and had moored their two remaining men of war, the Conqueſtador of ſixty-ſix guns, and the Dragon of ſixty.

On the 30th the vice-admiral held a general council of war of the naval officers, in which it was reſolved, to uſe all poſſible expedition to cut off the communication of the town on the land ſide, and make a deſcent at the moſt convenient place, and neareſt the town. Immediately after Sir Chaloner Ogle and ſeveral more ſhips turned up the harbour and anchored at ſome diſtance from Caſtillo Grande, where the Spaniards made a ſhow of preparing to receive them. But Captain Knowles, being ſent in the evening to reconnoitre, obſerved that they were buſy in moving about with thirteen launches, and next morning he found

found they had ſunk the Conqueſtador and Dragon, and were removing things out of Caſtillo Grande. The captain immediately returned and acquainted Sir Chaloner Ogle of it, who inſtantly ordered him to weigh, and run in with his ſhip and fire on the caſtle, to ſee if they would return it; this he accordingly did, and, the caſtle not firing a ſhot, he ſent his boats aſhore, who rowed directly up to the caſtle, and took poſſeſſion of it without any oppoſition.

Though this caſtle mounted fifty-nine guns, and was in a condition to make a good defence; yet the Spaniards perceiving, that the day before, the rear-admiral's boats were ſounding, and being well aware that his ſhips could lay their broadſides within piſtol-ſhot of the caſtle, they abandoned it, having ſlightly ſpiked up the guns, without diſmounting them, or knocking off their trunnions; and had thrown their powder into a ciſtern of water. But moſt of the guns were got clear again, and Captain Knowles was appointed governor of the caſtle, with a garriſon of one hundred regular troops and fifty ſailors. This was a moſt advantageous acquiſition for ſhortening the operations of the army, as after their embarkation they could now reland within a league of the town; ſo that St. Lazar was the only remaining fort, the reduction of which was to be next undertaken; for, as it covered the ſouth ſide of Carthagena, and commanded all the avenues, it was abſolutely neceſſary to be in the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh troops before they could advance a ſtep farther, to lay ſiege to the town.

On the 1ſt of April, the vice-admiral came to an anchor cloſe by Caſtillo Grande; the ſailors were employed to heave the maſts out of the Spaniſh ſhips which had been ſunk, thereby to obtain a free channel over ſuch as had been ſunk in the deepeſt water, and enabling the Britiſh fleet to proceed ſo high, as with their cannon to cover the deſcent of the troops as near the town as poſſible. This ſervice was effectually

tually performed by the inflexible ardour of the seamen, whereupon two bomb-ketches advanced, and two frigates, commanded by Captains Renton and Broderick, followed to cover them. The land-forces were landed at Texar de Gracias, a country house formerly hired by the South-Sea factors, and about two miles from St. Lazar. The first division of the troops was commanded by Brigadier Blakeney, to oppose which the Spaniards drew out the whole strength of the town, but the ships fired upon them so successfully, that numbers were swept away; so that the Spaniards, unable to stand their ground, retreated with precipitation.

General Wentworth, at the head of the forces, advanced through a long and narrow defile, where some few of our men were hurt by single shot from the paths and openings into the wood, the Spaniards having made a lodgement there, but were soon put to flight. About a mile further, coming out of the defile, about six hundred Spaniards were perceived to be advantageously posted, and seemed resolved to dispute our passage. The ground over which the troops were to march did not admit of much more than one large platoon in front, a lagoon lying on their left hand and a thick copse on their right, into which last the general ordered a party of American soldiers to fall upon the rear of any small parties which might be lodged there to flank them in their march. The grenadiers moved forward with great alacrity, and, after receiving two fires from the Spaniards with very little loss, the front platoon gave their fire at about the distance of half a musket-shot, and immediately wheeled to the right and left, to make room for the next to advance; from which the Spaniards judging that the whole body gave way, expressed their joy by a loud huzza; but, being quickly convinced of their mistake by the fire of the next platoons, they fell into disorder and fled with precipitation towards the city; upon which

which the general immediately poſſeſſed himſelf of a commodious piece of ground for forming a camp, about a ſmall mile from the caſtle of St. Lazar; and in the evening ſent a party up to take poſſeſſion of la Pola, which the Spaniards had abandoned. This was a convent ſituated on a hill, which overlooked the town and country for ſeveral leagues.

Thus far affairs went on proſperouſly; but a fatal delay in attacking the fort of St. Lazar, which ſecured to the town a free communication with the country, prevented that advantage being taken of the panic into which the Spaniards were thrown, by the bold advances of the Britiſh troops; thereby the enemy had an opportunity of finiſhing ſome works which they were carrying on farther to ſtrengthen the place. Three days elapſed, in which the troops were obliged to lie on their arms at night, for want of tents, and by being thus expoſed to the intenſe heat of the ſun in the day-time, and the chilling night dews, were greatly enfeebled, and a contagious diſtemper ſpread itſelf through the camp.

The truth of the matter was, that the admiral and general had contracted a hearty contempt for each other, and took all opportunities of expreſſing their mutual diſlike: far from acting vigorouſly in concert, for the advantage of the community, they maintained a mutual reſerve, and ſeparate cabals; and each proved more eager for the diſgrace of his rival, than zealous for the honour of the nation. The general complained that the fleet lay idle, while his troops were harraſſed by hard duty and diſtemper. The admiral affirmed that his ſhips could not lie near enough to batter the town of Carthagena: he upbraided the general with inactivity and want of reſolution to attack the fort of St. Lazar, which commanded the town, and might be taken by ſcalade. Wentworth, ſtimulated by theſe reproaches, reſolved to try the experiment. His forces marched up to the attack: but, the guides

guides being ſlain, they miſtook their route, and advanced to the ſtrongeſt part of the fortification, where they were moreover expoſed to the fire of the town. Colonel Grant, who commanded the grenadiers, was mortally wounded: the ſcaling ladders were found too ſhort: the officers were perplexed for want of orders and directions: yet the ſoldiers ſuſtained a ſevere fire for ſeveral hours, with ſurpriſing intrepidity, and at length retreated, leaving about ſix hundred killed or wounded on the ſpot. Their number was now ſo much reduced, that they could no longer maintain their footing on ſhore: beſides, the rainy ſeaſon had begun with ſuch violence, as rendered it impoſſible for them to live in camp. They were, therefore, re-embarked: and all hope of further ſucceſs immediately vaniſhed. The admiral, however, in order to demonſtrate the impracticability of taking the place by ſea, ſent in the Gallicia, one of the Spaniſh ſhips which had been taken at Bocca Chica, to cannonade the town, with ſixteen guns mounted on one ſide, like a floating battery. This veſſel, manned by detachments of volunteers from different ſhips, and commanded by Captain Hore, was warped into the inner harbour, and moored before day, at a conſiderable diſtance from the walls, in very ſhallow water. In this poſition ſhe ſtood the fire of ſeveral batteries for ſome hours, without doing or ſuſtaining much damage. When a ſufficient trial had been made of the effect produced by this attack, the admiral ordered the men to be brought off in boats, and the cables of the ſhip to be cut; ſo that ſhe drove, with the ſea-breeze, upon a ſhoal, where ſhe was ſoon filled with water. The inference which the admiral drew from this experiment was, that the depth of water in the inner harbour was not ſufficient to admit large ſhips near enough to batter the town with any ſucceſs. To confute this principle it has been aſſerted, that, although this was the caſe in that part of the harbour to which the Gallicia

licia was conducted, yet a little farther to the left he might have ſtationed four or five of his larger ſhips abreaſt, within piſtol-ſhot of the walls; and, if this ſtep had been taken when the land-forces marched to the attack of St. Lazar, in all probability the town would have been ſurrendered.

During the attack upon the town, a carcaſs, which was fired from a bomb-ketch, fell into the great church, where the principal magazine of powder lay: it ſet fire to ſome planks that covered this powder, by which it would very ſoon have occaſioned a general exploſion, ſufficient to have laid the town in ruins; but the greatneſs of the danger led every one to exert themſelves ſo effectually, that the fire was ſtifled, by throwing ſand upon it, before it had proved fatal.

The ſea officers and ſailors having been employed in getting the maſts, anchors, and cables, out of ſome of the Spaniſh ſhips that had been ſunk, our fleet was ſoon in a condition of proceeding to ſea again; and on the 23d and 24th it was reſolved, in a general council of war, to return to Jamaica, by reaſon of the general ſickneſs in the army. Under the direction of Captain Knowles, the entire demolition of Caſtillo Grande was completed on the 25th, and this took up the more time, on account of the vaſt thickneſs of the walls, and the hardneſs of the cement: alſo the fifty-nine pieces of ordnance in this fort were rendered unſerviceable, by ſpiking them up, and knocking off their trunnions. After thus completing the demolition of all the defences of the harbour, and deſtroying the lime-kilns, in order by that means to retard the Spaniards from erecting other buildings, and carrying off all their ſtore of lime and lime-ſtone, for the ſervice of the hoſpital building at Jamaica, Vice-admiral Vernon left the harbour on the 6th of May, without injuring any of the inhabitants, or through wantonneſs giving the leaſt looſe to any of thoſe lawleſs ravages common in war; which the admiral di-

rected to be carefully guarded againſt both by officers and ſailors.

When the troops were re-embarked, the diſtempers peculiar to the climate and ſeaſon began to rage with redoubled fury. On the 8th of May, the vice-admiral ſet ſail for Jamaica, having ſtationed Captain Mayne, in the Worceſter, with the Strafford, Princeſs Louiſa, and Litchfield, to cruiſe to windward of Cape Tiberon till the 30th, for the ſecurity of the convoy, with victuallers and ſtoreſhips, expected from England; and on the 19th, the vice-admiral arrived with the fleet in Port-Royal harbour, where he found the convoy ſafely arrived four days before him. Preſently after he ſent home ſeven eighty-gun ſhips, with the Hampton-Court, Burford, Windſor, Falmouth, and five frigates, under the care of Commodore Leſtock. The climate of Jamaica was very unpropitious to the recovery of the ſick, many of them died aſhore, among whom was Lord Auguſtus Fitzroy, commander of the Orford.

It was neceſſary now to determine how the fleet and troops might be beſt employed againſt the enemy, for which purpoſe a general council of war was aſſembled on the 26th of May. In the opinion of the officers which compoſed it, the only expedition that was adviſeable to be undertaken was againſt St. Jago de Cuba. The two admirals and both the generals ſigned this reſolution, but the governor, Mr. Trelawney, diſſented from it; and recommended an attempt upon Panama. Indeed the reduction of the town and port of Havannah was looked upon as impracticable, becauſe, beſides the ſtrength of the place, Don Roderigo de Torres lay there with a powerful fleet of Spaniſh men of war. The land-forces being now greatly reduced by the mortality which raged among them, the governor raiſed a corps of one thouſand negroes for the expedition.

The admiral ſailed from Jamaica on the 1ſt of July, with

with eight ships of the line, a fifty-gun ship and eight frigates; having with him about forty transports, on-board of which were, including blacks, three thousand four hundred land-forces. On the 18th of the same month the fleet anchored in Walthenham harbour, on the south side of the island of Cuba, a large and secure haven, which protects the vessels that ride in it from the hurricanes which are so frequent in the West-Indies, especially at the time of year when this expedition was set on foot. Into this harbour the fleet sailed without molestation, and the troops debarked immediately. No sooner had the admiral cast anchor here, than he seemed to have laid his account for the reduction of the whole island; by giving the name of Cumberland-harbour to what had before borne the name of Walthenham. This place lies about eleven leagues to the south-west of St. Jago, and is distant by land about sixty miles, on which side the city is almost entirely defenceless. Its fortifications to the sea were not formidable, but the entrance into the harbour is so extremely narrow, and the navigation so dangerous, that nature has sufficiently secured it from a naval attack. These circumstances caused a resolution to be taken in a general council of war, to march the troops, with all possible expedition, to the attack of the place.

The army accordingly proceeded up the country, without meeting an enemy; but from some secret cause which was never explained, after they had proceeded about twenty miles up the country, they encamped on the banks of a navigable river, and there remained totally inactive as to their grand object: indeed, the general detached several reconnoitring parties, which falling in with small bodies of the enemy, repulsed them, with very little loss on either side. One of these reconnoitring parties, consisting of one hundred and fifty Americans and negroes, commanded by Major Dunster, penetrated as far as the village

of Elleguava, where he continued ſome time; but, not being ſupported by the main army, he returned to camp.

Whilſt every thing remained inactive on ſhore, Admiral Vernon diſpatched part of his fleet to block up the port of St. Jago, and to watch the motions of the Spaniſh admiral at the Havannah, expecting with the utmoſt impatience to hear of the army's progreſs. But on the 5th of October he had the mortification to receive a letter from General Wentworth, expreſſing his doubts of being able to advance farther, or even to ſubſiſt his army much longer in the part which they then poſſeſſed. On the 9th the general called a council of war, the members of which were unanimouſly of opinion, that it was impoſſible to march farther into the country without expoſing the troops to certain ruin. The army nevertheleſs continued in its encampment till the 7th of November, when another council of war, conſiſting of the land-officers only, reſolved, that the troops ought to be re-embarked with all poſſible expedition; and they were accordingly put on-board the tranſports on the 20th, without the leaſt moleſtation from the enemy. The fleet and tranſports then proceeded to Jamaica. Thus ended the operations in the Weſt-Indies during the year 1741, in which the lives of many brave men were ſacrificed through the miſconduct of their commanders. It is ſometimes extremely difficult to aſſign the true cauſe of the failure of an expedition; that againſt Carthagena is ſuch an one. How it came to paſs that the man who attacked the place by ſea, with a ſmall force the year before, ſhould find it impoſſible to reduce it with a much larger, although ſeconded by a numerous army, is hard to ſay. It has been the opinion of ſome very good judges of the ſtrength and condition of the town, that after the ſeveral fortreſſes which commanded the lake were reduced, the town might have been taken by the fleet without the aſſiſtance

ance of any land-forces; but ſo injudiciouſly was the attack conducted, that no ſhips were ſtationed to annoy the town by ſea, and the aſſault from the harbour has been cenſured as very improperly made. After all, though the Engliſh ſoldiers and ſailors were diſappointed of their expected ſpoils, yet the Spaniards ſuſtained very ſevere loſſes by the diſmantling of their forts, the ſpiking a conſiderable number of their guns, and the entire deſtruction of four men of war, an equal number of galleons, beſides many ſmall veſſels. Some have charged the miniſtry at home with a ſecret deſign that the place ſhould not be reduced, ariſing from an apprehenſion that ſuch a conqueſt would precipitate the nation in a war with France, who was not likely to remain a quiet ſpectator of the diſmemberment of the Spaniſh empire.

In Europe the Britiſh fleets made a great parade without performing any eſſential ſervice. Sir John Norris was appointed to command a ſquadron of ſixteen ſhips of the line, beſides the Blaze and Lightning fireſhips, having upwards of eight thouſand ſailors onboard. With this conſiderable force he ſailed for the coaſt of Spain, and arrived in the bay of Biſcay with the whole fleet on the 5th of Auguſt, 1741; where after taking and deſtroying only ſome ſmall veſſels by Captain Harriſon, in the Argyle, which apprized the country of the arrival of an Engliſh fleet, and cruiſing a little while on that coaſt, the admiral returned to Spithead on the 22d of the ſame month.

Admiral Haddock with thirteen men of war cruiſed in the Mediterranean during the ſummer. The principal ſervices which his fleet was deſigned to perform were, to prevent the Spaniſh fleet from Cadiz and the French fleet from Toulon forming a junction, and to intercept the troops which were to be tranſported from Barcelona to Italy, in order to act againſt the Queen of Hungary. But unfortunately neither of theſe purpoſes was anſwered, for, while Haddock lay

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at anchor in the bay of Gibraltar, the Spaniſh fleet paſſed the ſtraits in the night, and was joined by the French ſquadron from Toulon. The Britiſh admiral, ſailing from Gibraltar, fell in with them a few days after, on which the united ſquadrons formed themſelves in line of battle. Hereupon Haddock bore down upon the Spaniſh fleet, when the French admiral ſent a flag of truce to inform him, that as the French and Spaniards were engaged in a joint expedition, he ſhould be obliged to act in concert with his maſter's allies. This interpoſition prevented an engagement, the combined fleets amounting to more than double the number of the Britiſh ſquadron. Admiral Haddock was therefore obliged to deſiſt, and proceeded to Port Mahon, leaving the enemy to proſecute their voyage without moleſtation. The nation was incenſed at this tranſaction, and did not ſcruple to affirm that the hands of the Britiſh admiral were tied up by a neutrality entered into for Hanover.

In the month of July, two ſhips of Haddock's fleet fell in with three French men of war; Captain Barnet, the Engliſh commodore, ſuppoſing them to be Spaniſh regiſter-ſhips, fired a ſhot in order to bring them to; upon their failing to comply with the ſignal, a ſharp engagement enſued; after they had fought ſeveral hours, the French commander ceaſed firing, and thought proper to come to an explanation; when he and Barnet parted with mutual apologies.

The commander that moſt eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf at this time both for his activity and bravery, was Captain Ambroſe, in the Rupert man of war of ſixty guns, then on a cruiſe in the bay. He took the St. Antonio de Padua, a privateer belonging to St. Sebaſtian's, of ſixteen guns and one hundred and fifty men, as alſo another privateer, called the Biſcay, mounting ten carriage and two ſwivel guns, with one hundred and nineteen ſailors on-board. Theſe were deſperate fellows who had taken twenty-three Engliſh prizes

prizes since the commencement of the war; but, after a smart engagement, they submitted to the British flag. Captain Ambrose, having brought his two prizes into Plymouth, sailed again to his station; and on the 13th of September, as he was cruising in the bay off Machiacaca, in the evening he saw a sail from the mast-head, to the windward, when after chasing her, that night and the next day, about seventy-five leagues, he came up with and took her after some resistance, and brought her into Plymouth. She proved to be the Duke de Vendome, the largest privateer belonging to St. Sebastian's, mounting twenty-six carriage-guns, and two hundred and two men, among which were some English, Scots, and Irish, commanded by Martin de Areneder, a Frenchman. Captain Ambrose immediately proceeded again to cruise on his station.

On the 17th of November, the same officer descried two ships to the windward, which he chaced, and at the same time he observed a sail to chace him, which happened to be a Spanish privateer of twenty-four carriage and twenty swivel-guns, with one hundred and eighty-seven men, commanded by Don Francisco de l'Arrea. Captain Ambrose, disregarding her, continued his first chace, and on coming up with them, did not fire to bring them to, but sent his boat on-board, and, finding they were Dutchmen, apprized them of his intention to deceive the privateer. Accordingly, the captain reefed his sails, and trimmed his ship, and the Spaniards suspecting her a consort of the Dutchmen, crowded sail, and by dusk was within two leagues, when Captain Ambrose shortened sail to wait for her. As soon as the privateer got within a mile, she discovered the force of the Rupert, and hauled upon a wind. Immediately Captain Ambrose followed her with all the sail he could make. On the 8th, at two in the morning, the Rupert got within gun shot of the privateer, but soon after lost sight of her;

her; at day-break Captain Ambroſe ſaw her again, but the privateer eſcaped a ſecond time. On the 9th, the captain diſcovered her again, purſued all day, and began to engage her at half an hour paſt midnight: the action laſted till two in the morning, when the Rupert boarding her ſhe ſtruck. The privateer had twelve men killed; two had their arms and legs ſhot away, and the captain with ſeveral of his men dangerouſly wounded, the Rupert having loſt only one man, who fell into the ſea in boarding the privateer, which was completely fitted out with a great quantity of ſmall arms, cutlaſſes, poleaxes, &c. and had met with no prize in that cruiſe. As a recompence for Captain Ambroſe's vigilance in ſuppreſſing the Spaniſh privateers, the merchants of London preſented him with a large ſilver cup, his arms chaſed on one ſide, and on the other the repreſentation of the Rupert in purſuit of a privateer; and the merchants of Briſtol alſo preſented him with a piece of plate of one hundred pounds value on the ſame account.

On the 12th of October, Sir John Norris ſailed again in the Victory from St. Helen's, upon another expedition, accompanied with the Royal George, Royal Sovereign, Barfleur, Neptune, Sandwich, Naſſau, Buckingham, Newcaſtle, and Port Mahon. This fleet proceeded for the Spaniſh coaſt, the arrival of which did not much terrify the inhabitants, eſpecially as, ſince the laſt viſit of a Britiſh ſquadron, they had put themſelves in a poſture of defence, by repairing their fortifications, and having their militia ready poſted along the ſhore; ſo that without attempting any thing, the admiral returned with the ſquadron for England, and arrived at Spithead on the 6th of November.

Theſe ſeveral expeditions, carried on with ſuch conſiderable force, and at ſo vaſt an expence, without effectually annoying the enemy, although under the conduct of an admiral who had formerly acquired

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great naval glory, raiſed a general diſcontent in the nation.

Many captures were made both by the Spaniards and the Engliſh, chiefly by the privateers of the two kingdoms which cruiſed both in Europe and America. It has been computed, that the captures made of Britiſh ſhips from the commencement of the war to the end of the year 1741, amounted to 372 merchantmen of different burdens; the Spaniards on their part loſt 390, notwithſtanding which the value of the Britiſh prizes exceeded theſe of Spain. What added to the mortification which the merchants endured was, that the Spaniſh cruiſers had the audacity to viſit the Engliſh coaſts, and to come within ſoundings; whilſt the board of admiralty was ſhamefully remiſs in ſtationing frigates in ſuch a manner as ſhould protect the coaſts from inſult, and give ſecurity to the trade of the kingdom. The merchants at length determined to lay their grievances before parliament, and ſolicit aſſiſtance from thence.

The affairs on the continent of Europe were now more than ever embroiled. The King of Pruſſia had demanded of the court of Vienna part of Sileſia, by virtue of old treaties of co-fraternity, which were either obſolete or annulled; and promiſed to aſſiſt the queen with all his forces, in caſe ſhe ſhould comply with his demand; but this being rejected with diſdain, he entered Sileſia at the head of an army, and proſecuted his conqueſts with great rapidity. In the mean time, the Queen of Hungary was crowned at Preſburg, after having ſigned a capitulation, by which the liberties of that kingdom were confirmed; and the grand duke, her conſort, was, at her requeſt, aſſociated with her for ten years in the government. At the ſame time the ſtates of Hungary refuſed to receive a memorial from the Elector of Bavaria. During theſe tranſactions, his Pruſſian majeſty made his public entrance into Breſlaw, and confirmed all the pri-

vileges of the inhabitants. One of his generals surprized the town and fortreſs of Jablunka, on the confines of Hungary: Prince Leopald of Anhalt-Deſſau, who commanded another army, which formed the blockade of Great Glogau on the Oder, took the place by ſcalade, made the Generals Wallis and Reyſki priſoners, with a thouſand men that were in garriſon: here, likewiſe, the victor found the military cheſt, fifty pieces of braſs cannon, and a great quantity of ammunition.

The Queen of Hungary had ſolicited the maritime powers for aſſiſtance, but found them fearful and backward. Being obliged, therefore, to exert herſelf with the more vigour, ſhe ordered Count Neuperg to aſſemble a body of forces, and endeavour to ſtop the progreſs of the Pruſſians in Sileſia. The two armies encountered each other in the neighbourhood of Neiſs, at a village called Molwitz; and, after an obſtinate diſpute, the Auſtrians were obliged to retire, with the loſs of four thouſand men killed, wounded, or taken. The advantage was dearly purchaſed by the King of Pruſſia. His kinſman Frederic margrave of Brandenburgh, and Lieutenant-general Schuylemberg, were killed in the engagement, together with a great number of general officers, and about two thouſand ſoldiers. After this action, Brieg was ſurrendered to the Pruſſians, and he forced the important paſs of Fryewalde, which was defended by four thouſand Auſtrian huſſars. The Engliſh and Dutch miniſters, who accompanied him in his progreſs, ſpared no pains to effect an accommodation: but the two ſovereigns were too much irritated againſt each other to acquieſce in any terms that could be propoſed. The Queen of Hungary was incenſed to find herſelf attacked, in the day of her diſtreſs, by a prince to whom ſhe had given no ſort of provocation; and his Pruſſian majeſty charged the court of Vienna with a deſign either to aſſaſſinate, or carry him off by treachery:

treachery: a design which was disowned with expressions of indignation and disdain. Count Neuperg being obliged to abandon Silesia, in order to oppose the Bavarian arms in Bohemia, the King of Prussia sent thither a detachment to join the elector, under the command of Count Dessau, who, in his route, reduced Glatz and Neiss, almost without opposition: then his master received the homage of the Silesian states at Breslaw, and returned to Berlin. In December the Prussian army was distributed in winter quarters in Moravia, after having taken Olmutz, the capital of that province; and in March his Prussian majesty formed a camp of observation in the neighbourhood of Magdeburg.

The Elector of Hanover was alarmed at the successes of the King of Prussia, in apprehension that he would become too formidable a neighbour. A scheme was said to have been proposed to the court of Vienna, for attacking that prince's electoral dominions, and dividing the conquest: but it never was put in execution. Nevertheless, the troops of Hanover were augmented: the auxiliary Danes and Hessians in the pay of Great Britain were ordered to be in readiness to march; and a good number of British forces encamped and prepared for embarkation. The subsidy of 300,000l. granted by parliament was remitted to the Queen of Hungary; and every thing seemed to presage the vigorous interposition of his Britannic majesty. But in a little time after his arrival at Hanover, that spirit of action seemed to flag, even while her Hungarian majesty tottered on the verge of ruin. France resolved to seize this opportunity of crushing the house of Austria. In order to intimidate the Elector of Hanover, Marechal Mallebois was sent with a numerous army into Westphalia; and this expedient proved effectual. A treaty of neutrality was concluded; and the King of Great Britain engaged to vote for the Elector of Bavaria at the ensuing elec-

tion of an emperor. The design of the French court was to raise this prince to the imperial dignity, and furnish him with such succours as should enable him to deprive the Queen of Hungary of her hereditary dominions.

While the French minister at Vienna endeavoured to amuse the queen with the strongest assurances of his master's friendship, a body of five-and-thirty thousand men began their march for Germany, in order to join the Elector of Bavaria: another French army was assembled upon the Rhine; and the Count de Belleisle, being provided with large sums of money; was sent to negotiate with different electors. Having thus secured a majority of voices, he proceeded to Munich, where he presented the Elector of Bavaria with a commission, appointing him generalissimo of the French troops marching to his assistance; and now the treaty of Nymphenburg was concluded. The French king engaged to assist the elector with his whole power towards raising him to the imperial throne: the elector promised, that after his elevation he would never attempt to recover any of the towns or provinces of the empire which France had conquered: that he would, in his imperial capacity, renounce the barrier-treaty; and agree that France should irrevocably retain whatever places he should subdue in the Austrian Netherlands. The next step of Belleisle was to negotiate another treaty between France and Prussia, importing, That the Elector of Bavaria should possess Bohemia, Upper Austria, and the Tyrolese: that the King of Poland should be gratified with Moravia and Upper Silesia; and that his Prussian majesty should retain Lower Silesia, with the town of Neiss and the county of Glatz. These precautions being taken, Count Belleisle repaired to Frankfort in quality of ambassador and plenipotentiary from France, at the imperial diet of election. It was in this city that the French king published a declaration,

declaration, ſignifying, that as the King of Great Britain had aſſembled an army to influence the approaching election of an emperor, his moſt chriſtian majeſty, as guarantee of the treaty of Weſtphalia, had ordered ſome troops to advance towards the Rhine, with a view to maintain the tranquillity of the Germanic body, and ſecure the freedom of the imperial election.

In July, the Elector of Bavaria, being joined by the French forces under Marſhal Broglio, ſurpriſed the imperial city of Paſſau, upon the Danube; and, entering Upper Auſtria, at the head of ſeventy thouſand men, took poſſeſſion of Lintz, where he received the homage of the ſtates of that country. Underſtanding that the garriſon of Vienna was very numerous, and that Count Palfi had aſſembled thirty thouſand Hungarians in the neighbourhood of this capital, he made no farther progreſs in Auſtria, but marched into Bohemia, where he was reinforced by a conſiderable body of Saxons, under the command of Count Rutowſki, natural ſon to the late King of Poland. By this time his Poliſh majeſty had acceded to the treaty of Nymphenburg, and declared war againſt the Queen of Hungary, on the moſt frivolous pretences. The Elector of Bavaria advanced to Prague, which was taken in the night by ſcalade: an atchievement in which Maurice count of Saxe, another natural ſon of the King of Poland, diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the head of the French forces. In December the Elector of Bavaria made his public entry into his capital, where he was proclaimed King of Bohemia, and inaugurated with the uſual ſolemnities; then he ſet out for Frankfort, to be preſent at the diet of election.

At this period the Queen of Hungary ſaw herſelf abandoned by all her allies, and ſeemingly devoted to deſtruction. She was not, however, forſaken by her courage; nor deſtitute of good officers, and an able

able miniſtry. She retired to Preſburg, and in a pathetic Latin ſpeech to the ſtates, expreſſed her confidence in the loyalty and valour of her Hungarian ſubjects. The nobility of that kingdom, touched with her preſence and diſtreſs, aſſured her unanimouſly, that they would ſacrifice their lives and fortunes in her defence. The ban being raiſed, that brave people crowded to her ſtandard: and the diet expreſſed their reſentment againſt her enemy by a public edict, excluding for ever the electorial houſe of Bavaria from the ſucceſſion to the crown of Hungary: yet, without the ſubſidy ſhe received from Great Britain, their courage and attachment would have proved ineffectual. By this ſupply ſhe was enabled to pay her army, erect magazines, complete her warlike preparations, and put her ſtrong places in a poſture of defence. In December, her generals, Berenclau and Mentzel, defeated Count Thoring, who commanded eight thouſand men, at the paſs of Scardingen, and, opening their way into Bavaria, laid the whole country under contribution; while Count Khevenhuller retook the city of Lintz, and drove the French troops out of Auſtria. The grand ſignor aſſured the Queen of Hungary, that, far from taking advantage of her troubles, he ſhould ſeize all opportunities to convince her of his friendſhip; the pope permitted her to levy a tenth on the revenues of the clergy within her dominions; and even to uſe all the church plate for the ſupport of the war.

During this ſummer the attention of the people was called off from foreign to domeſtic tranſactions. The parliament being diſſolved by proclamation in April, writs were iſſued for electing a new one. Never were greater exertions made than on this occaſion, and indeed this election may be conſidered as producing the moſt violent conteſt between the two parties, which had happened ſince the revolution. The two contending parties were now generally called the *court* and *country*

country party; though the former affected to call themſelves the Whig, and the other the Tory, intereſt; which diſtinction was certainly ill-founded, becauſe the Prince of Wales and many of the moſt eminent whigs were at the head of the country party, and on the other hand the court party was zealouſly aſſiſted and ſupported by almoſt the whole body of Roman catholics, and by the biſhops and dignified clergy. The Duke of Argyle exerted himſelf ſo ſucceſsfully among the ſhires and boroughs of Scotland, that the partiſans of the miniſtry could not ſecure ſix members out of the whole number returned from North Britain. They were, however, much more fortunate in the election of the thirteen peers, who were choſen ſtrictly according to the liſt tranſmitted from court. Inſtructions were delivered by the conſtituents to a great number of members returned for cities and counties, exhorting and requiring them to oppoſe a ſtanding army in time of peace; to vote for the mitigation of the exciſe laws; for the repeal of ſeptennial parliaments; for the limitation of placemen in the houſe of commons, that every particular of the public expence ſhould be examined into, and proper meaſures taken, to redreſs thoſe grievances under which the nation groaned.

The new parliament met on the 1ſt of December, and again choſe Mr. Onſlow their ſpeaker. His majeſty opened the ſeſſion on the 4th, with a ſpeech, in which he repreſented the dangers with which Europe was threatened, by the confederacy for ſubverting the houſe of Auſtria; and recommending to both houſes, a neceſſary concern for maintaining the liberties of Europe at that important criſis.

It ſoon appeared that the country party had obtained a majority in the houſe of commons, and that the power of Sir Robert Walpole was in the greateſt danger. He knew that the majority of a ſingle vote might, at that time, commit him priſoner to the tower; and

and that his safety depended on his dividing the opposition; he therefore employed all his credit and dexterity to produce this. A message was sent by the Bishop of Oxford to the Prince of Wales, who was at the head of the opposition, importing, that if his royal highness would write a letter of condescension to the king, he and all his counsellors should be taken into favour; 50,000l. be added to his revenue, four times that sum be immediately disbursed for the payment of his debts; and, in due time, a suitable provision be made for all his followers. Yet this proposal, though so extremely advantageous, the prince declined; and declared, that he would accept of no such conditions while Sir Robert continued to direct the public affairs: that he considered him as a bar between his majesty and the affections of his people; as the author of the national grievances, and the sole cause of that contempt in which Great Britain was held in all the courts of Europe. Sir Robert, being thus disappointed, and finding that he had little power in determining disputed elections, upon an opposition of this kind, declared that he would never more sit in that house; and the next day, which was the 3d of February, 1742, the king adjourned both houses of parliament till the 18th of the same month. In this interim, Sir Robert was created Earl of Orford, and resigned all his employments. Upon this occasion he displayed the most prudent policy, by separating the parts which composed the opposition. Walpole's place of chancellor of the exchequer was bestowed upon Mr. Sandys, who was also appointed one of the lords of the treasury; and the Earl of Wilmington succeeded him as first commissioner of that board. Lord Harrington, being created an earl, was declared president of the council; and, in his room, Lord Cartaret became secretary of state: Mr. Pulteney was sworn of the privy council, and afterwards created Earl of Bath: the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham was made head

head of the admiralty, in the room of Sir Charles Wager: and the Earl of Stair appointed field-marſhal of all his majeſty's forces, and ambaſſador extraordinary to the ſtates-general.

On the 7th of February, the Prince of Wales, attended by a numerous retinue of his adherents, waited on his majeſty, who gave him a gracious reception, and ordered his guards to be reſtored. The reconciliation between the king and the prince, together with the change of the miniſtry, were celebrated with public rejoicings all over the kingdom; and the utmoſt concord appeared in the houſe of commons. But it was ſoon found, that thoſe who had declaimed the loudeſt againſt the public meaſures had been ſolely influenced by motives of ſelf-intereſt; and thoſe motions which had been deemed moſt patriotic, on being now made to the houſe, were oppoſed by thoſe who had formerly exerted themſelves with the greateſt eloquence in their defence. Among other inſtances, a motion being made by Sir Robert Godſchall, for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the act for ſeptennial parliaments, he was warmly oppoſed by Mr. Pulteney and Mr. Sandys, and the queſtion paſſed in the negative. From this, and many other inſtances of the like kind, it appeared, that, though the miniſtry had been changed, the ſame meaſures were purſued.

The new parliament voted forty thouſand ſeamen, and ſixty-two thouſand five hundred landmen, for the ſervice of the year 1742; the expence of the year amounted to near ſix millions. The houſe of commons took into conſideration the ſtate of the linen manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland, and, in order to contribute to their farther advancement, an act was paſſed, whereby an additional duty was laid on all foreign cambrics imported into Great Britain, and for allowing thereout a bounty upon certain ſpecies of Britiſh and Iriſh linen exported. The bank of England this year lent the public towards the ſup-

plies, the sum of 1,600,000l. in consideration of which service, an act of parliament passed to continue to that company the exclusive privileges of banking, formed by a partnership of more than six persons, till one year's notice, and repayment of principal and arrears, after the 1st of August, 1764. By this act, persons forging, counterfeiting, or altering, of any bank-note, bill of exchange, dividend-warrant, or any bond of obligation under that company's seal, or any indorsement thereon, or knowingly uttering the same, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy. Hereby also the company's servants breaking their trust to the company, shall suffer death as felons, without benefit of clergy.

By an act passed at this time, a bounty of five pounds over and above his wages was granted to every able-bodied seaman, and three pounds to every ordinary seaman; and the widows of such as might from thenceforth be killed in the service were granted a year's pay as a bounty. This act extended to Ireland. By it, the pay for seamen in the merchant's service was regulated at thirty-five shillings per month, for the next twelve months following, and not to exceed that sum.

By this time great changes had happened in the affairs of the continent. The Elector of Bavaria was chosen Emperor of Germany at Franckfort on the Maine, and crowned by the name of Charles VII. on the 12th of February. Thither the Imperial diet was removed from Ratisbon: they confirmed his election, and indulged him with a subsidy of fifty Roman months, amounting to about 200,000l. sterling. In the mean time, the Austrian general, Khevenhuller, ravaged his electorate, and made himself master of Munich, the capital of Bavaria: he likewise laid part of the Palatine under contribution, in resentment for that elector's having sent a body of his troops to reinforce the Imperial army. In March, Count Saxe, with a detach-

a detachment of French and Bavarians, reduced Egra; and the Auſtrians were then obliged to evacuate Bavaria, though they afterwards returned. Khevenhuller took poſt in the neighbourhood of Paſſau, and detached General Bernclau to Dingleſing on the Iſer, to obſerve the motions of the enemy, who were now become extremely formidable. In May, a detachment of French and Bavarians advanced to the caſtle of Hilkerſburg on the Danube, with a view to take poſſeſſion of a bridge over the river: the Auſtrian garriſon immediately marched out to give them battle, and a ſevere action enſued, in which the Imperialiſts were defeated.

In the beginning of the year, the Queen of Hungary had aſſembled two conſiderable armies in Moravia and Bohemia. Prince Charles of Lorraine, at the head of fifty thouſand men, advanced againſt the Saxons and Pruſſians, who thought proper to retire with precipitation from Moravia, which they had invaded. Then the prince took the route to Bohemia; and Marſhal Broglio, who commanded the French forces in that country, muſt have fallen a ſacrifice, had not the King of Pruſſia received a ſtrong reinforcement, and entered that kingdom before his allies could be attacked. The two armies advanced towards each other; and, on the 17th of May, joined battle at Czaſlaw, where the Auſtrians at firſt gained a manifeſt advantage, and penetrated as far as the Pruſſian baggage: then the irregulars began to plunder ſo eagerly, that they neglected every other conſideration. The Pruſſian infantry took this opportunity to rally: the battle was renewed, and, after a very obſtinate conteſt, the victory was ſnatched out of the hands of the Auſtrians, who were obliged to retire, with the loſs of five thouſand men killed, and twelve hundred taken by the enemy. The Pruſſians paid dear for the honour of remaining on the field of battle; and from the circumſtances of this action the king is ſaid

to have conceived a diſguſt to the war. When the Auſtrians made ſuch progreſs in the beginning of the engagement, he rode off with great expedition, until he was recalled by a meſſage from his general, Count Schwerin, aſſuring his majeſty that there was no danger of a defeat. Immediately after this battle, he diſcovered an inclination to accommodate all differences with the Queen of Hungary. The Earl of Hyndford, ambaſſador from the court of Great Britain, who accompanied him in his campaign, and was veſted with full power by her Hungarian majeſty, did not fail to cultivate this favourable diſpoſition: and, on the 1ſt of June, a treaty of peace between the two powers was concluded at Breſlaw. The queen ceded to his Pruſſian majeſty Upper and Lower Sileſia, with the county of Glatz in Bohemia; and he charged himſelf with the payment of the ſum lent by the merchants of London to the late emperor on the Sileſian revenues. He likewiſe engaged to obſerve a ſtrict neutrality during the war, and to withdraw his forces from Bohemia, in fifteen days after the ratification of the treaty, in which were comprehended the King of Great Britain as Elector of Hanover, the czarina, the King of Denmark, the ſtates-general, the houſe of Wolfenbuttle, and King of Poland as Elector of Saxony.

The King of Pruſſia recalled his troops; while Marſhal Broglio, who commanded the French auxiliaries in that kingdom, and Count Belleiſle, abandoned their magazines and baggage, and retired with precipitation under the cannon of Prague. There they entrenched themſelves in an advantageous ſituation; and Prince Charles, being joined by the other body of Auſtrians, under Prince Lobkowitz, encamped in ſight of them, on the hills of Giriſnitz. The Grand Duke of Tuſcany arrived in the Auſtrian army, of which he took the command; and the French generals offered to ſurrender Prague, Egra, and all the other

other places they poſſeſſed in Bohemia, provided they might be allowed to march off with their arms, artillery, and baggage. The propoſal was rejected, and Prague inveſted on all ſides about the end of July. Though the operations of the ſiege were carried on in an aukward and ſlovenly manner, the place was ſo effectually blocked up, that famine muſt have compelled the French to ſurrender at diſcretion, had not very extraordinary efforts been made for their relief. The King of France was no ſooner apprized of the condition to which Broglio and Belleiſle were reduced, than he ſent orders to Marſhal Maillebois, who commanded his army on the Rhine, to march to their relief. His troops were immediately put in motion; and when they reached Amberg in the Upper Palatinate, were joined by the French and Imperialiſts from Bavaria. Prince Charles of Lorraine, having received intelligence of their junction and deſign, left eighteen thouſand men to maintain the blockade of Prague, under the command of General Feſtititz, while he himſelf, with the reſt of his army, advanced to Haydon on the frontiers of Bohemia. There he was joined by Count Khevenhuller, who from Bavaria had followed the enemy, now commanded by Count Seckendorff and Count Saxe. Seckendorff, however, was ſent back to Bavaria, while Marſhal Maillebois entered Bohemia, on the 25th of September. But he marched with ſuch precaution, that Prince Charles could not bring him to an engagement. Meanwhile Feſtititz, for want of ſufficient force, was obliged to abandon the blockade of Prague; and the French generals, being now at liberty, took poſt at Leutmaritz. Maillebois advanced as far as Kadan: but ſeeing the Auſtrians poſſeſſed of all the paſſes of the mountains, he marched back to the Palatinate, and was miſerably harraſſed in his retreat by Prince Charles, who had left a ſtrong body with Prince Lobkowitz, to watch the motions of Belleiſle and Broglio.

Theſe

Theſe generals, ſeeing themſelves ſurrounded on all hands, returned to Prague, whence Broglio made his eſcape in the habit of a courier, and was ſent to command the army of Maillebois, who was by this time diſgraced. Prince Lobkowitz, who now directed the blockade of Prague, had ſo effectually cut off all communication between that place and the adjacent country, that in a little time the French troops were reduced to great extremity, both from the ſeverity of the ſeaſon, and the want of proviſion. They were already reduced to the neceſſity of eating horſe-fleſh, and unclean animals; and they had no other proſpect but that of periſhing by famine or war, when their commander formed the ſcheme of a retreat, which was actually put in execution. Having taken ſome artful precautions to deceive the enemy, he, in the middle of December, departed from Prague at midnight, with about fourteen thouſand men, thirty pieces of artillery, and ſome of the principal citizens as hoſtages for the ſafety of nine hundred ſoldiers whom he had left in garriſon. Notwithſtanding the difficulties he muſt have encountered at that ſeaſon of the year, in a broken and unfrequented road, which he purpoſely choſe, he marched with ſuch expedition, that he had gained the paſſes of the mountains, before he was overtaken by the horſe and huſſars of Prince Lobkowitz. The fatigue and hardſhips which the miſerable ſoldiers underwent are inexpreſſible. A great number periſhed in the ſnow, and many hundreds, fainting with weakneſs, cold, and hunger, were left to the mercy of the Auſtrian irregulars, conſiſting of the moſt barbarous people on the face of the earth. Count Belleiſle, though tortured with the hip-gout, behaved with ſurpriſing reſolution and activity. He cauſed himſelf to be carried in a litter to every place where he thought his preſence was neceſſary, and made ſuch diſpoſitions, that the purſuers never could make an impreſſion upon the body of his troops: but

all

all his artillery, baggage, and even his own equipage, fell into the hands of the enemy. On the 29th of December, he arrived at Egra, from whence he proceeded to Alsace without further molestation: but, when he returned to Versailles, he met with a very cold reception, notwithstanding the gallant exploit which he had performed. After his escape, Prince Lobkowitz returned to Prague, and the small garrison which Belleisle had left in that place surrendered upon honourable terms; so that this capital reverted to the house of Austria.

The King of Great Britain, resolving to make a powerful diversion in the Netherlands, had, in the month of April, ordered sixteen thousand effective men to be embarked for that country; but, as this step was taken without any previous concert with the states-general, the Earl of Stair, destined to the command of the forces in Flanders, was in the mean time appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to their high mightinesses, in order to persuade them to co operate vigorously in the plan which his Britannic majesty had formed: a plan by which Great Britain was engaged as a principal in a foreign dispute, and entailed upon herself the whole burthen of an expensive war, big with ruin and disgrace. England, from being the umpire, was now become a party in all continental quarrels; and, instead of trimming the balance of Europe, lavished away her blood and treasure in supporting the interest and allies of a puny electorate in the north of Germany. The King of Prussia had been at variance with the Elector of Hanover. The Duchy of Mecklenburg was the avowed subject of dispute: but his Prussian majesty is said to have had other more provoking causes of complaint, which, however, he did not think proper to divulge. The King of Great Britain found it convenient to accommodate these differences. In the course of this summer, the two powers

ers concluded a convention, in consequence of which the troops of Hanover evacuated Mecklenberg, and three regiments of Brandenburg took possession of those bailiwicks that were mortgaged to the King of Prussia. The Elector of Hanover being now secured from danger, sixteen thousand troops of that country, together with the six thousand auxiliary Hessians, began their march for the Netherlands; and about the middle of October arrived in the neighbourhood of Bruffels, where they encamped. The Earl of Stair repaired to Ghent, where the British forces were quartered: a body of Austrians was assembled; and, though the season was far advanced, he seemed determined upon some expedition: but all of a sudden the troops were sent into winter-quarters. The Austrians retired to Luxemberg; the English and Hessians remained in Flanders; and the Hanoverians marched into the county of Leige, without paying any regard to the bishop's protestation.

The states-general had made a considerable augmentation of their forces by sea and land; but, notwithstanding the repeated instances of the Earl of Stair, they resolved to adhere to their neutrality: they dreaded the neighbourhood of the French; and they were far from being pleased to see the English get footing in the Netherlands. The term of the subsidy-treaty between Great Britain and Denmark expiring, his Danish majesty refused to renew it; nor would he accede to the peace of Breslau. On the other hand, he became subsidiary of France, with which also he concluded a new treaty of commerce. The Court of Versailles were heartily tired of maintaining the war in Germany, and had actually made equitable proposals of peace to the Queen of Hungary, by whom they were rejected. Thus repulsed, they redoubled their preparations; and endeavoured, by advantageous offers, to detach the King of Sardinia from the interest of the house of Austria.

Auſtria; but in this they did not ſucceed. The pope was paſſive during the whole campaign: the Venetians maintained their neutrality, and the King of the two Sicilies was over-awed by the Britiſh fleet under Haddock in the Mediterranean.

The remonſtrances which had been made to parliament, not only by the merchants of London, but from Briſtol, Exeter, Glaſgow, Liverpool, Lancaſter, Biddeford, Southampton, and other places; ſetting forth that the Britiſh trade and commerce had been continually expoſed to the depredations of Spaniſh privateers, ever ſince the breaking out of the war, led the houſe of commons to enter into reſolutions for the better protection of the commerce of the nation, and a number of frigates were appointed to cruiſe in the channel and along the coaſts, to diſperſe the ſhips of Spain that infeſted thoſe parts.

A reinforcement of ten ſail under the command of Commodore Leſtock, who had left the Weſt-Indies ſoon after the return of the fleet from the expedition againſt Carthagena, was ſent to Admiral Haddock, in the Mediterranean, and arrived at Port Mahon on the 1ſt of February. Haddock, whom chagrin had reduced to a bad ſtate of health, quitted the command to Leſtock, and embarked on-board the Roebuck man of war for England.

Leſtock, whilſt his fleet was getting ready for ſea, diſpatched ſome cruiſers to the coaſt of Spain; theſe intercepted ſeveral veſſels laden with proviſions, deſigned for the Spaniſh troops.

On the 12th of April the commodore left Port Mahon, having with him a fleet conſiſting of twenty-eight men of war, with which he proceeded to Toulon, from whence, after throwing the inhabitants into the utmoſt conſternation, he departed, and proceeded to Antibes, and along the coaſt of Italy.

One of the firſt ſteps taken by the new miniſtry was to appoint Admiral Matthews to the command of

the Mediterranean fleet: on which occaſion he was advanced to be vice-admiral of the red, and Leſtock, who was to be ſecond in command, was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the white. Admiral Matthews ſet ſail on the 16th of April from Spithead, having with him four ſhips of the line, and under his convoy the merchant ſhips for Oporto, Liſbon, and the Levant. He was likewiſe inveſted with the character of miniſter plenipotentiary to the King of Sardinia and the ſtates of Italy.

The admiral joined the fleet at Villa Franca near Nice, and immediately directed Captain Norris to deſtroy five Spaniſh gallies, which had put into the bay of St Tropez; which ſervice was effectually and expeditiouſly performed. It preſently appeared very evidently, that no good underſtanding ſubſiſted between the commander in chief and the ſecond in command, the former openly attacking the latter as ſoon as he arrived, on the ſcore of a breach of reſpect, which the other inſiſted he had duly paid. In the month of May, Matthews was joined by Rear-admiral Rowley, which rendered the Britiſh fleet ſomewhat ſuperior to thoſe of France and Spain united; which, however, ſtill kept ſafe moored in the harbour of Toulon, whilſt detachments from the Engliſh fleet ſcoured the coaſts of Catalonia, Provence, and Italy. Whilſt things remained in this ſituation, a French man of war ſailed cloſe along the harbour of Villa Franca, in ſight of the Britiſh fleet, without paying the uſual compliment to the flag. Admiral Matthews fired a gun at the Frenchman, to remind him of his omiſſion, but this did not obtain the required ſalute. A man of war was hereupon ordered out, in order to chaſtiſe ſuch inſolence, who, at length, poured a broadſide into the French ſhip, which ſunk her inſtantly. Soon after this piece of chaſtiſement was inflicted, Rowley was detached with eight ſail to cruiſe off the harbour of Toulon; in which ſtation he fell in with and took a great

great number of the enemy's merchantmen, bound for different ports in Provence and Languedoc, having on-board neceſſaries for the Spaniards.

In Auguſt another ſquadron was ſent out under Commodore Martin, into the bay of Naples, to require of his Sardinian majeſty, that he ſhould immediately recall his troops that had joined the Spaniſh army, and enter into an engagement to remain neuter during the war, or, in caſe of his refuſal, to lay his capital in aſhes. On the appearance of this force, and when the terms inſiſted on were known, the city was filled with conſternation; but the king, by a prudent compliance, averted the impending danger. The commodore having accompliſhed the object on which he was ſent, rejoined his admiral, who had, by that time, taken his ſtation with his whole fleet in the road of Hieres, there to continue during the winter ſeaſon.

At the ſame time, Captain Norris in the Kingſton of fifty guns, and Captain Callis in the Duke fireſhip, whilſt cruiſing between Villa Franca and the iſles of Hieres, had intelligence that five Spaniſh gallies laden with ammunition and proviſions for the Spaniſh army were ſailed from St. Margaretta, and had arrived at St. Tropez, a little harbour in Provence; they immediately followed them thither, with an intention to detain them till they had received orders from the vice-admiral in what manner to regulate their behaviour: but the Spaniſh gallies, on their arrival, began to fire on the Britiſh ſhips, and by thus breaking the rules eſtabliſhed for a neutral port, Captain Norris directly gave orders to Captain Callis to ſet fire to them, which he executed accordingly and deſtroyed them: while another part of the Britiſh ſquadron, cruiſing on the coaſt of Catalonia, bombarded the towns of Mataro and Palamos, by which a great part of the houſes were deſtroyed, and many of the inhabitants buried under the ruins.

While the vice-admiral lay in Hieres bay, having

received intelligence, that the Spaniards had got together ſome conſiderable magazines at St. Remo, a Genoeſe town on the Mediterranean, thirty miles north-eaſt of Nice, he diſpatched thither Capt. Martin, towards the latter end of Auguſt, who arrived before that place on the 1ſt of September, when he immediately ſent a party on ſhore to ſearch for the magazines, which they found, and entirely deſtroyed a large quantity of corn and flour, with two hundred and fifty quintals of ſtraw, deſigned for the uſe of the Spaniſh army: after which nothing of any great importance happened this year in the Britiſh fleet, which continued their ſtation off Toulon.

In the mean time the Engliſh merchants loſt great numbers of ſhips in the Britiſh and German oceans, by which means their trade to Holland was greatly interrupted, and even became very precarious along their own coaſts: beſides, the Spaniards took and carried many conſiderable prizes into Vigo, Bilboa, and St. Sebaſtian, where our ſailors ſuffered inexpreſſible hardſhips, being driven barefooted one or two hundred miles up the country, where they were thruſt into damp dungeons, and allowed only bread and water by the Spaniards; and, had not ſixpence a day been granted by the Britiſh government to every priſoner (and which was regularly paid them), they would have inevitably periſhed.

Many, however, of the Britiſh commanders, both of the king's ſhips and privateers, took ſeveral rich prizes from the Spaniards, and deſtroyed a conſiderable number of their privateers, while the maſters of the merchantmen bravely defended themſelves, and never were taken but by a much ſuperior force. Some of theſe gallant actions are as follows:

The Earl of Northeſk, commander of the Loo man of war, being on a cruiſe off cape Finiſterre, had intelligence of a ſmall privateer being at Porto Novo; upon which he ſtood in there on the 30th of June, but

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the privateer discovered him, got higher up the river than the Loo could venture; and it falling calm, Lord Northesk was obliged to anchor close by the towns of Porto Novo and St. Jago, into which he fired a few shot: then landing some men, he dismounted four guns which were on a battery at Porto Novo; and after setting fire to several houses in St. Jago, he proceeded on his cruise, where, on the 7th of July, his lordship meeting with the Deal-castle man of war, commanded by Captain Elton, and receiving information of some vessels being at Vigo, they both ran up the river, and anchoring before that town, they made prize of four vessels, after firing several shot into the town, in order to cover the boats while they cut them away, a smart fire of musketry from the shore being kept at them all the time. After this, the men of war continued their cruise, during which Lord Northesk, upon intelligence that the privateer was still about the river of Porto Novo, on the 19th of July ran in and anchored under the island of Blydones, where his lordship put a lieutenant and sixty men, with two six-pounders, into one of the sloops taken at Vigo, which he sent up the river in quest of the privateer. The sloop could see nothing of her, but in her return she chased a bark on shore and set her on fire. Lord Northesk then landed some of his men, and after burning a village consisting of about forty houses, he repaired to his station.

On the 27th of December the Pulteney privateer, a large brigantine, mounting sixteen carriage-guns and twenty-six swivels, with forty-two men, commanded by Captain James Purcel, was returning to Gibraltar from a cruise in the mouth of the Straits; and, as she was standing in for the bay from the west, with little or no wind, was seen from Old Gibraltar; whence two large Spanish xebeques, each carrying a hundred and twenty men, twelve carriage-guns, and a great number of patteraroes and musquetoons, were sent to take

take the Pulteney; and, looking upon her as an eaſy prey, made haſte with their oars, and ſoon got up with her, a little to the eaſt of Europe-point, and almoſt within reach of the guns of Gibraltar, the governor of which refuſed a reinforcement of men, alleging, that it was impoſſible ſo ſmall a veſſel, even full of men, could eſcape a force ſo much ſuperior to her. The brave Captain Purcel, however, reſolved to defend his veſſel to the laſt extremity; and, finding his officers and men in the ſame diſpoſition, prepared for an obſtinate reſiſtance. After a few ſingle guns, the Spaniards came near, and hailing the veſſel by her name, and the captain by his, entreated him to ſtrike and preſerve the lives of his men, otherwiſe to expect no quarter. Theſe threats were returned with guns: after which the Spaniards attempted to board, and were reſolutely beat off; they made two attempts more, but, Captain Purcel prudently reſerving half his broadſide, they had not courage to board him, though they expoſed themſelves ſo much, particularly in the laſt puſh, they could ſtand it no longer, and made off with their oars towards Malaga, having loſt above one hundred of their men. The engagement laſted an hour and three quarters, the Pulteney having but one man killed and five more dangerouſly wounded; though, what is a very remarkable circumſtance, every man on-board was ſhot through his clothes, the ſails and rigging were all cut to pieces, and ſome nine-pounders went through the hull and maſts. It falling calm after the engagement, the Pulteney was towed round by ſeveral boats which came from Gibraltar; and the garriſon had ſuch a high ſenſe of the merit of this action, that the governor, officers, and principal inhabitants, contributed for a large piece of plate as a preſent to the captain with a ſuitable inſcription, and gave a handſome reward to the ſailors for their bravery.

Theſe were the moſt important actions, in which the commanders of Britiſh ſhips this year diſtinguiſhed them-

themſelves in the European ſeas. In the mean time, the government ſhewed a regard for the protection of their ſeamen, and alſo their reſolution not to ſuffer any officer of the royal navy to eſcape with impunity either for a neglect of duty, or ill treatment of their men. For in May a cartel was ſettled with the court of Madrid for the exchange of priſoners; in purſuance of which above ſix hundred Engliſh ſeamen were releaſed from St. Sebaſtian's, and a conſiderable number exchanged at Gibraltar. Sir Yelverton Peyton, captain of the Hector man of war, and Captain Fanſhaw, commander of the Phœnix, having returned from their ſtations at Virginia and South Carolina, and complaints having been made about their conduct there, a court-martial was appointed to try them, which on the 9th of June was held by Admiral Cavendiſh, on-board the St. George, at Spithead, when the court adjudged Sir Yelverton to be diſmiſſed for ever ſerving in the royal navy, and mulcted Captain Fanſhaw ſix months pay for the uſe of the cheſt at Chatham. And on the 19th of Auguſt the ſame admiral held another court-marſhal at Spithead on the captain of the Superbe, who was caſhiered and rendered incapable of ſerving again, for ill treatment to his officers, and inhuman cruelty to his men.

Such were the operations in Europe during the year 1743. Let us now follow the Britiſh fleet in its operations in the Weſt-Indies; where, after the diſgraceful retreat from Cuba, it rendezvouſed at Jamaica. In January a reinforcement of two thouſand marines arrived from Europe; alſo the Greenwich, St. Alban's, and the Fox man of war; upon which the admiral and general, although their animoſities were nothing abated, formed a plan for a freſh expedition, in concert with Governor Trelawney, who agreed to accompany them therein. Their deſign was to diſembark the troops at Porto Bello, and march acroſs the iſthmus of Darien, to attack the rich town of

of Panama. Two months elapſed after this reſolution was taken before the troops were all embarked, and the tranſports ready to ſail. On the 9th of March the whole fleet left Jamaica, and arrived at the place of their deſtination on the 28th. The fleet conſiſted of eight ſail of the line, three fire-ſhips, and two hoſpital-ſhips, together with forty tranſports, on-board of which were three thouſand land-forces; beſides five hundred negroes raiſed by the governor. The Spaniſh forces at Porto Bello, immediately on the arrival of this armament, made a precipitate retreat to Panama, without attempting to oppoſe their landing; but inſtead of debarking the troops, a council of war compoſed of land-officers was called, in which it was reſolved, that, as the troops were ſickly, the rainy ſeaſon begun, and ſeveral of the tranſports not yet arrived, the deſign againſt Panama was rendered impracticable. Another motive for forming this reſolution was, advice which had been received that the garriſon of Panama had been greatly ſtrengthened by freſh troops poured in. In purſuance of this determination, in which the admiral and ſea-officers bore no part, the fleet returned to Jamaica, to the utter diſgrace of thoſe who planned the enterpriſe, and of thoſe who abandoned it without making a ſingle effort to carry it into effect.—In Auguſt, Captain Cuſack, in the Litchfield, of fifty guns, was ſent from Jamaica, with about three hundred ſoldiers, to the ſmall iſland of Rattan in the bay of Honduras, of which he took poſſeſſion.

In the latter end of September, Captain Fowke, in the Gibraltar man of war, arrived at Jamaica, with diſpatches from the Duke of Newcaſtle, in which both the admiral and general were recalled, and directed to bring home with them ſuch troops as remained alive, which did not amount to a tenth part of the number which had been ſent abroad in that inglorious ſervice. The inferior officers fell ignobly by ſickneſs and deſpair, without having an opportunity allowed

allowed them of ſignalizing their courage; and the commanders lived to feel the ſcorn and reproach of their country.

In the month of June the new colony of Georgia was invaded by an armament from St. Auguſtine, commanded by Don Martinel de Monteano, governor of that fortreſs. It conſiſted of thirty-ſix ſhips, from which four thouſand men were landed at St. Simon's, and began their march for Frederica. General Oglethorpe, with a handful of men, took ſuch wiſe precautions for oppoſing their progreſs, and harraſſed them in their march with ſuch activity and reſolution, that after two of their detachments had been defeated, they retired to their ſhips, and totally abandoned the enterprize.

In May, two Engliſh frigates, commanded by the Captains Smith and Stuart, fell in with three Spaniſh men of war near the iſland of St. Chriſtopher's. An engagement enſued, which was maintained with great ſpirit until night, by the favour of which the Spaniards retired to Porto Rico, having been much ſhattered in the conflict. In the month of September the Tilbury ſhip of war, of ſixty guns, was accidentally ſet on fire and deſtroyed off the iſland of Hiſpaniola; on which occaſion one hundred and twenty-ſeven men periſhed, the reſt were ſaved by Captain Hoare, of the Defiance, who happened to be on the ſame cruiſe.

The government, ſenſible of the diſadvantages attending a command divided between the land and ſea-officers, at the ſame time that they inveſted Sir Chaloner Ogle with the command of the fleet in the Weſt-Indies, gave him abſolute authority over the marine forces.

In England, the merchants ſtill complained that their commerce was not properly protected, and the people clamoured againſt the conduct of the war. They ſaid their burdens were increaſed to maintain quarrels with which they had no concern; to defray

the enormous expence of inactive fleets and pacific armies. Lord C. had by this time insinuated himself into the confidence of his sovereign, and engrossed the whole direction of public affairs. The war with Spain was now become a secondary consideration, and neglected accordingly; while the chief attention of the new minister was turned upon the affairs of the continent. The dispute with Spain concerned Britain only. The interests of Hanover were connected with the troubles of the empire. By pursuing this object, he soothed the wishes of his master, and opened a more ample field for his own ambition. He had studied the policy of the continent with peculiar eagerness. This was the favourite subject of his reflection, upon which he thought and spoke with a degree of enthusiasm. The intolerable taxes, the poverty, the ruined commerce, of his country, the iniquity of standing armies, votes of credit, and foreign connexions, upon which he had so often expatiated, were now forgotten, or overlooked. He saw nothing but glory, conquest, and acquired dominion. He set the power of France at defiance: and, as if Great Britain had felt no distress, but teemed with treasure which she could not otherwise employ, he poured forth her millions with a rash and desperate hand, in purchasing beggarly allies, and maintaining mercenary armies.

The parliament met on the 16th of November, when his majesty told them, that he had augmented the British forces in the Low Countries with sixteen thousand Hanoverians and the Hessian auxiliaries, in order to form such a force, in conjunction with the Austrian troops, as might be of service to the common cause, at all events. He extolled the magnanimity and fortitude of the Queen of Hungary, as well as the resolute conduct of the King of Sardinia, and that prince's strict adherence to his engagements, though attacked in his own dominions. He mentioned

tioned the requisition made by Sweden, of his good offices for procuring a peace between that nation and Russia; the defensive alliances which he had concluded with the czarina, and with the King of Prussia, as events which could not have been expected, if Great Britain had not manifested a seasonable spirit and vigour, in defence and assistance of her ancient allies, and in maintaining the liberties of Europe.

When the house of lords took into consideration the several estimates of the expence occasioned by the forces in the pay of Great Britain, Earl Stanhope, at the close of an elegant speech, moved for an address, to beseech and advise his majesty, that, in compassion to his people, loaded already with such numerous and heavy taxes, such large and growing debts, and greater annual expences than the nation at any time before had ever sustained, he would exonerate his subjects of the charge and burthen of those mercenaries who were taken into the service last year, without the advice or consent of parliament. The motion was supported by the Earl of Sandwich, who took occasion to speak with great contempt of Hanover, and, in mentioning the royal family, seemed to forget that decorum which the nature of the subject required. He had, indeed, reason to talk with asperity on the contract by which the Hanovarians had been taken into the pay of Great Britain. Levy-money was charged to the account, though they were engaged for one year only, and though not a single regiment had been raised on this occasion: they had been levied for the security of the electorate; and would have been maintained if England had never engaged in the affairs of the continent. The Duke of Bedford enlarged upon the same subject. He said it had been suspected, nor was the suspicion without foundation, that the measures of the English ministry had long been regulated by the interest of his majesty's elec-

toral territories: that these had been long considered as a gulf into which the treasures of Great Britain had been thrown: that the state of Hanover had been changed, without any visible cause, since the accession of its princes to the throne of England: affluence had begun to wanton in their towns, and gold to glitter in their cottages, without the discovery of mines, or the increase of their commerce; and new dominions had been purchased, of which the value was never paid from the revenues of Hanover. The motion was hunted down by the new minister, the patriot Lord Bathurst, and the Earl of Bath, which last nobleman declared, that he considered it as an act of cowardice and meanness, to fall passively down the stream of popularity, to suffer his reason and integrity to be overborne by the noise of vulgar clamours, which had been raised against the measures of government by the low arts of exaggeration, fallacious reasonings, and partial representations. This is the very language which Sir Robert Walpole had often used against Mr. Pulteney and his confederates in the house of commons. The associates of the new secretary pleaded the cause of Hanover, and insisted upon the necessity of a land war against France, with all the vehemence of declamation. Their suggestions were answered; their conduct was severely stigmatized by the Earl of Chesterfield, who observed, that the assembling an army in Flanders, without the concurrence of the states-general, or any other power engaged by treaty, or bound by interest, to support the Queen of Hungary, was a rash and ridiculous measure: the taking sixteen thousand Hanoverians into British pay, without consulting the parliament, seemed highly derogatory to the rights and dignity of the great council of the nation, and a very dangerous precedent to future times: that while Great Britain exhausted herself almost to ruin, in pursuance of schemes founded on engagements to the Queen of Hungary, the electorate

electorate of Hanover, though under the same engagements, and governed by the same prince, did not appear to contribute any thing as an ally to her assistance, but was paid by Great Britain for all the forces it had sent into the field, at a very exorbitant price: that nothing could be more absurd and iniquitous than to hire these mercenaries, while a numerous army lay inactive at home, and the nation groaned under such intolerable burthens. "It may be proper (added he) to repeat what may be forgotten in the multitude of other objects, that this nation, after having exalted the Elector of Hanover from a state of obscurity to the crown, is condemned to hire the troops of that electorate to fight their own cause: to hire them at a rate which was never known before; and to pay levy-money for them, though it is known to all Europe that they were not raised for this occasion." All the partisans of the old ministry joined in the opposition to Earl Stanhope's motion, which was rejected by the majority. Then the Earl of Scarborough moved for an address, to approve of the measures which had been taken on the continent; and this was likewise carried by dint of numbers. It was not, however, a very eligible victory: what they gained in parliament they lost with the people. The new ministers became more odious than their predecessors; and people began to think that public virtue was an empty name.

At this period the Queen of Hungary seemed to triumph over all her enemies. The French were driven out of Bohemia and part of the Upper Palatinate; and their forces under Marshal Broglio were posted on the Danube. Prince Charles of Lorraine, at the head of the Austrian army, entered Bavaria; and in April obtained a victory over a body of Bavarians at Braunau: at the same time, three bodies of Croatians penetrating through the passes of the Tyrolese, ravaged the whole country to the very gates of

of Munich. The emperor preſſed the French general to hazard a battle; but he refuſed to run this riſque, though he had received a ſtrong reinforcement from France. His imperial majeſty, thinking himſelf unſafe in Munich, retired to Augſburg: Marſhal Seckendorff retreated with the Bavarian troops to Ingoldſtadt, where he was afterwards joined by Marſhal Broglio, whoſe troops had, in this retreat, been purſued and terribly harraſſed by the Auſtrian cavalry and huſſars. Prince Charles had opened a free communication with Munich, which now for the third time fell into the hands of the Queen of Hungary. Her arms likewiſe reduced Friedberg and Landſperg, while Prince Charles continued to purſue the French to Donawert, where they were joined by twelve thouſand men from the Rhine. Broglio ſtill avoided an engagement, and retreated before the enemy to Hailbron. The emperor, being thus abandoned by his allies, and ſtripped of all his dominions, repaired to Franckfort, where he lived in indigence and obſcurity. He now made advances towards an accommodation with the Queen of Hungary. His general, Seckendorff, had an interview with Count Khevenhuller at the convent of Lowerſconfield, where a convention was ſigned. This treaty imported, that the emperor ſhould remain neuter during the continuance of the preſent war; and, that his troops ſhould be quartered in Franconia: that the Queen of Hungary ſhould keep poſſeſſion of Bavaria till the peace: that Braunau and Scarding ſhould be delivered up to the Auſtrians: that the French garriſon of Ingoldſtadt ſhould be permitted to withdraw, and be replaced by Bavarians; but that the Auſtrian generals ſhould be put in poſſeſſion of all the artillery, magazines, and warlike ſtores belonging to the French, which ſhould be found in the place.—The governors of Egra and Ingoldſtadt refuſing to acquieſce in the capitulation, the Auſtrians had recourſe to the operations

rations of war; and both places were reduced. In Ingoldſtadt they found all the emperor's domeſtic treaſure, jewels, plate, pictures, cabinets, and curioſities, with the archives of the houſe of Bavaria, the moſt valuable effects belonging to the nobility of that electorate, a prodigious train of artillery, and a vaſt quantity of proviſions, arms, and ammunition.

The French king, baffled in all the efforts he had hitherto made for the ſupport of the emperor, ordered his miniſter at Franckfort to deliver a declaration to the diet, profeſſing himſelf extremely well pleaſed to hear they intended to interpoſe their mediation for terminating the war. He ſaid, he was no leſs ſatisfied with the treaty of neutrality which the emperor had concluded with the Queen of Hungary; an event of which he was no ſooner informed, than he had ordered his troops to return to the frontiers of his dominions, that the Germanic body might be convinced of his equity and moderation. To this declaration the Queen of Hungary anſwered in a reſcript, that the deſign of France was to embarraſs her affairs, and deprive her of the aſſiſtance of her allies: that the Elector of Bavaria could not be conſidered as a neutral party in his own cauſe: that the mediation of the empire could only produce a peace either with or without the concurrence of France: that in the former caſe no ſolid peace could be expected; in the latter, it was eaſy to foreſee, that France would pay no regard to a peace in which ſhe ſhould have no concern. She affirmed, that the aim of the French king was ſolely to gain time to repair his loſſes, that he might afterwards revive the troubles of the empire. The Elector of Mentz, who had favoured the emperor, was now dead, and his ſucceſſor inclined to the Auſtrian intereſt. He allowed this reſcript to be entered in the journal of the diet, together with the proteſts which had been made when the vote of Bohemia was ſuppreſſed in the late election. The emperor complained

complained in a circular letter of this tranſaction, as a ſtroke levelled at his imperial dignity; and it gave riſe to a warm diſpute among the members of the Germanic body. Several princes reſented the haughty conduct, and began to be alarmed at the ſucceſs, of the houſe of Auſtria; while others pitied the deplorable ſituation of the emperor. The Kings of Great Britain and Pruſſia, as Electors of Hanover and Brandenburgh, eſpouſed oppoſite ſides in this conteſt. His Pruſſian majeſty proteſted againſt the inveſtiture of the duchy of Saxe Lawenburgh, claimed by the King of Great Britain: he had an interview with General Seckendorff at Anſpach; and was ſaid to have privately viſited the emperor at Frankfort.

The troops which the King of Great Britain had aſſembled in the Netherlands began their march for the Rhine in the latter end of February; and in May they encamped near Hoech on the river Mayne, under the command of the Earl of Stair. This nobleman ſent Major-general Bland to Franckfort, with a compliment to the emperor, aſſuring him, in the name of his Britannic majeſty, that the reſpect owing to his dignity ſhould not be violated, nor the place of his reſidence diſturbed. Notwithſtanding this aſſurance, the emperor retired to Munich, though he was afterwards compelled to return, by the ſucceſs of the Auſtrians in Bavaria. The French king, in order to prevent the junction of the Britiſh forces with Prince Charles of Lorraine, ordered Marſhal Noailles to aſſemble ſixty thouſand men upon the Mayne; while Coigny was ſent into Alſace with a numerous army, to defend that province, and oppoſe Prince Charles, ſhould he attempt to paſs the Rhine. Noailles, having ſecured the towns of Spire, Worms, and Oppenheim, paſſed the Rhine in the beginning of June, and poſted himſelf on the eaſt ſide of that river, above Franckfort. The Earl of Stair advanced towards him, and encamped at Killenbach, between the river Mayne

Mayne and the foreſt of Darmſtadt: from this ſituation he made a motion to Aſchaffenburgh, with a view to ſecure the navigation of the Upper Mayne; but he was anticipated by the enemy, who lay on the other ſide of the river, and had taken poſſeſſion of the poſts above, ſo as to intercept all ſupplies. They were poſted on the other ſide of the river, oppoſite to the allies, whoſe camp they overlooked; and, they found means, by their parties and other precautions, to cut off the communication by water between Frankfort and the confederates.

The Duke of Cumberland had already come to make his firſt campaign, and the king himſelf arrived in the camp on the 9th of June. He found his army, amounting to about forty thouſand men, in danger of ſtarving: he received intelligence that a reinforcement of twelve thouſand Hanoverians and Heſſians had reached Hanau; and he reſolved to march thither, both with a view to effect the junction, and to procure proviſion for his forces. With this view he decamped on the 26th of June. He had no ſooner quitted Aſchaffenburgh, than it was ſeized by the French general: he had not marched above three leagues, when he perceived the enemy, to the number of thirty thouſand, had paſſed the river farther down, at Selingenſtadt, and were drawn up in order of battle at the village of Dettingen, to diſpute his paſſage. Thus he found himſelf cooped up in a very dangerous ſituation. The enemy had poſſeſſed themſelves of Aſchaffenburgh behind, ſo as to prevent his retreat: his troops were confined in a narrow plain, bounded by hills and woods on the right, flanked on the left by the river Mayne, on the oppoſite ſide of which the French had erected batteries, that annoyed the allies on their march: in the front a conſiderable part of the French army was drawn up, with a narrow paſs before them, the village of Dettingen on their right, a wood on their left, and a moraſs in the centre. Thus environed,

the confederates muſt either have fought at a very great diſadvantage, or ſurrendered themſelves priſoners of war, had not the Duke de Gramont, who commanded the enemy, been inſtigated by the ſpirit of madneſs to forego theſe advantages. He paſſed the defile, and, advancing towards the allies, a battle enſued. The French horſe charged with great impetuoſity, and ſome regiments of Britiſh cavalry were put in diſorder: but the infantry of the allies behaved with ſuch intrepidity and deliberation, under the eye of their ſovereign, as ſoon determined the fate of the day: the French were obliged to give way, and repaſs the Mayne with great precipitation, having loſt about five thouſand men, killed, wounded, or taken. Had they been properly purſued before they recollected themſelves from their firſt confuſion, in all probability they would have ſuſtained a total overthrow. The Earl of Stair propoſed that a body of cavalry ſhould be detached on this ſervice; but his advice was overruled. The loſs of the allies in this action amounted to two thouſand men. Generals Clayton and Monroy were killed: the Duke of Cumberland, who exhibited uncommon proofs of courage, was ſhot through the calf of the leg: the Earl of Albemarle, General Huſke, and ſeveral other officers of diſtinction, were wounded. The king expoſed his perſon to a ſevere fire of cannon as well as muſquetry; he rode between the firſt and ſecond lines with his ſword drawn, and encouraged the troops to fight for the honour of England. Immediately after the action he continued his march to Hanau, where he was joined by the reinforcement. The Earl of Stair ſent a trumpet to Marſhal Noailles, recommending to his protection the ſick and wounded that were left on the field of battle; and theſe the French general treated with great care and tenderneſs: ſuch generoſity ſoftens the rigours of war, and does honour to humanity.

The two armies continued on different ſides of the river

river till the 12th of July, when the French general receiving intelligence that Prince Charles of Lorraine had approached the Neckar, he ſuddenly retired, and repaſſed the Rhine, between Worms and Oppenheim. The King of Great Britain was viſited by Prince Charles and Count Khevenhuller, at Hanau, where the future operations of the campaign were regulated. On the 27th of Auguſt the allied army paſſed the Rhine at Mentz, and the king fixed his head-quarters in the epiſcopal palace at Worms. Here the forces lay encamped till the latter end of September, when they advanced to Spire, where they were joined by twenty thouſand Dutch auxiliaries from the Netherlands. Marſhal Noailles having retreated into Upper Alſace, the allies took poſſeſſion of Germerſheim, and demoliſhed the entrenchments which the enemy had raiſed on the Queich; then they returned to Mentz, and, in October, were diſtributed into winter-quarters, after an inactive campaign that redounded very little to the honour of thoſe by whom the motions of the army were conducted. In September a treaty had been concluded at Worms, between his Britannic majeſty, the King of Sardinia, and the Queen of Hungary. She engaged to maintain thirty thouſand men in Italy: the King of Sardinia obliged himſelf to employ forty thouſand infantry and five thouſand horſe, in conſideration of his commanding the combined army, and receiving an annual ſubſidy of two hundred thouſand pounds from Great Britain. As a further gratification the queen yielded to him the city of Placentia, with ſeveral diſtricts in the duchy of Pavia, and in the Novareſe; and all her right and pretenſions to Final, at preſent poſſeſſed by the republic of Genoa, which, they hoped, would give it up, on being repaid the purchaſe-money, amounting to three hundred thouſand pounds. This ſum the King of England promiſed to diſburſe; and, moreover, to maintain a ſtrong ſquadron in the Mediterranean, the com-

mander of which ſhould act in concert with his Sardinian majeſty. Finally, the contracting powers agreed, that Final ſhould be conſtituted a free-port, like that of Leghorn. Nothing could be more unjuſt than this treaty, by which the Genoeſe were negotiated out of their property. They had purchaſed the marquiſate of Final of the late emperor, for a valuable conſideration, and the purchaſe had been guaranteed by Great Britain. It could not, therefore, be expected that they would part with this acquiſition to a prince whoſe power they thought already too formidable; eſpecially, on condition of its being made a free-port, to the prejudice of their own commerce. They preſented remonſtrances againſt this article, by their miniſters at the courts of London, Vienna, and Turin; and, as very little regard was paid to their repreſentations, they threw themſelves into the arms of France and Spain for protection.

After the battle of Dettingen, Colonel Mentzel, at the head of a large body of irregulars, belonging to the Queen of Hungary, made an irruption into Lorraine, part of which they ravaged without mercy. In September, Prince Charles, with the Auſtrian army, entered the Briſgaw, and attempted to paſs the Rhine; but Marſhal Coigny had taken ſuch precautions for guarding it on the other ſide, that he was obliged to abandon his deſign, and, marching back into the Upper Palatinate, quartered his troops in that country, and in Bavaria. By this time the Earl of Stair had ſolicited and obtained leave to reſign his command. He had for ſome time thought himſelf neglected; and was unwilling that his reputation ſhould ſuffer on account of meaſures in which he had no concern. In October the King of Great Britain returned to Hanover, and the army ſeparated. The troops in Britiſh pay marched back to the Netherlands, and the reſt took their route to their reſpective countries.

In the month of February, 1743, Sir Chaloner Ogle,

Ogle, who then lay in Port Royal, Jamaica, with his fleet, appointed Captain Knowles, of the Suffolk, a ſeventy-gun ſhip, to take under his command the Burford of ſeventy guns, the Aſſiſtance, Norwich, and Advice, of fifty guns, the Scarborough of twenty guns, and three ſloops, and proceed to Antigua, where he was to be joined by the Eltham of forty guns, and the Lively of twenty, and with this ſquadron make an attempt on La Guira and Porto Cavallo, two Spaniſh fortreſſes on the Caracco coaſt of South America. Commodore Knowles, with theſe eight men of war, and three ſloops, having two thouſand three hundred ſailors and marines, with four hundred of Dalzell's regiment on-board, ſailed from Antigua on the 12th of February, and, after touching at St. Chriſtopher's, proceeded to La Guira. But the governor of the Caraccas, having received intelligence of this expedition almoſt two months before, had neglected nothing that tended to his ſecurity, by erecting new batteries, and augmenting the garriſons with a numerous body of Indians, mulattoes, and negroes; beſides, he had prevailed on the Dutch governor of Curaçoa, an iſland of the Antilles, to ſupply him with a conſiderable quantity of ammunition.

On the 18th of February, the Engliſh commander, having arrived with his ſquadron in ſight of La Guira, began the attack about noon, which was carried on with great vigour, and met with an equally warm reſiſtance. By reaſon of the great ſwell, the ſhips could could not approach nearer the town than within a mile of it, which rendered it impracticable to land the ſoldiers, but all the ſhips behaved with great reſolution. At the beginning of the attack the Spaniſh flag was ſhot down, but ſoon hoiſted again; ſome conſiderable breaches were made in the fortifications, the churches were entirely demoliſhed, and a great number of houſes deſtroyed. Only three ſhips were in the harbour, for cutting which out, or ſetting them on fire, ſome

ſome boats were manned from the ſquadron, but could not ſucceed. The attack continued till almoſt eight at night, and, though the Spaniſh magazine blew up, yet the darkneſs of the night put an end to the engagement. The Burford, Norwich, Eltham, and Aſſiſtance, being entirely diſabled from keeping the line of battle, and continuing the attack, were ordered to Curaçoa to refit. The Suffolk received one hundred and forty-ſix ſhot, and the other ſhips were conſiderably damaged, ſo that the attempt miſcarried, after the loſs of one lieutenant, ninety-two men killed, and three hundred and eight wounded; among the latter was Captain Luſhington, commander of the Burford, who had his thigh taken off by a chain-ſhot, and expired at Curaçoa, two hours after he was carried aſhore. The Spaniards, however, had little cauſe for being elated, as their town and fortifications were greatly damaged, with the loſs of ſeven hundred men.

Commodore Knowles, after refitting his ſquadron at Curaçoa, and being reinforced with ſome Dutch volunteers, who had been injured by the Spaniards, reſolved to make an attack upon Porto Cavallo; though the Spaniards had put the town in a good poſture of defence, having about twelve hundred ſeamen belonging to the ſhips in the harbour, with three hundred men more, beſides four thouſand Indians, mulattoes, and blacks. The commodore ſailed from Curaçoa, March the 20th; but by reaſon of a ſtrong lee current, it was the 15th of April before he came under the keys of Barbarat, a little to the eaſtward of Porto Cavallo. The Spaniards had twelve of their ſmalleſt ſhips, and three gallies, hauled up to the head of the harbour out of gun-ſhot, with one of ſixty, and another of forty, moored cloſe over to the other ſhore: one ſhip was laid acroſs the channel in the mouth of the harbour, ready to be ſunk, with a chain from the caſtle to the ſtern, and another

from

from her head to the main, where had lately been erected three faſcine batteries of a conſiderable length. On a low point called Ponta Brava were two more batteries, one of twelve, and the other of ſeven, guns. But the commodore, perceiving that they might eaſily be flanked, thought it would be no difficult matter to make himſelf maſter of the batteries, the guns of which might then be turned againſt the caſtle. Accordingly it was agreed in a general council held next morning, to ſend in two ſhips in the afternoon to cannonade the batteries, and then land the volunteers, with about four hundred ſeamen, the detachment of Dalzell's, all the marines, with the Dutch, to take poſſeſſion of them after being ſilenced, their retreat being ſecured by the Aſſiſtance, which lay within piſtol-ſhot of the ſhore. The Lively and Eltham that were ſent in to cannonade the batteries, ſilenced them about ſun-ſet, and by dark the firing ceaſed on both ſides: when the forces, conſiſting of twelve hundred men, landed, under the command of Major Lucas; and on their march along a beach, the commodore accompanied them in his boat. About eleven the van ſeized one of the faſcine batteries; but the Spaniſh ſentinel, firing his piece, alarmed the garriſon and the other batteries, on which two guns fired from the latter, put the forces into diſorder, who, not obſerving the proper watch-word, fired at one another. This put them in ſuch confuſion, that their officers calling out to caſt off their muſkets, ſtoop and run; they did ſo with the utmoſt precipitation, each man taking his comrade for a Spaniard; nor did they recover from this ſhameful fright till they found themſelves ſafe on-board. On the 21ſt, in a general conſultation, after conſidering the late miſcarriage, it was reſolved to form one general attack with the ſhips and forces againſt the caſtle and the faſcine batteries. In purſuance of this reſolution, on the 24th in the forenoon, a ſmall breeze ſpringing up,

up, the commodore weighed and run down in the following order: the Aſſiſtance, Burford, Suffolk, and Norwich, to batter the caſtle; and the Scarborough, Lively, and Eltham, againſt the two faſcine batteries. They began cannonading about eleven, and continued till paſt nine at night, with great obſtinacy on both ſides. The Spaniards ſometimes ſlackened their fire; and the Engliſh did good execution in diſmounting their guns, beating ſeveral embraſures into one, and ſilencing the faſcine batteries. But, night coming on, their fire was briſker and did more miſchief, whereupon, ſome of the ſhips having expended all, and others moſt of their ammunition, with their maſts and rigging ſhattered, the commodore made the ſignal to cut, and, after the loſs of two hundred men, anchored about a random ſhot diſtance. During the cannonading, the Spaniards ſunk the ſhip in the mouth of the harbour, which ſtopped up the channel. Next morning the ſquadron got under the keys of Barbarat to refit, and in the evening was joined by the Advice, which had parted company three days after ſailing from Curaçoa. On the 28th, in a general council, it was agreed that the ſquadron was no longer in a condition to undertake any enterpriſe againſt the Spaniards; upon which, after ſending away the ſtation ſhips, and an exchange of priſoners with the governor of Porto Cavallo, the commodore returned to Jamaica.

The Britiſh and Spaniſh ſquadrons remained for the reſt of the year inactive in the ports of Cuba and Jamaica; though our cruizers and privateers were ſucceſsful in making a conſiderable number of prizes. Among theſe, the San Joſeph le Deſiderio, a regiſter-ſhip, computed by the Spaniards to be worth one hundred thouſand pounds, was taken, April the 17th, by Captain Tucker, in the Fowey man of war, cruizing off cape Corientes. On the 19th of June, Lord Bamff, in the Haſtings man of war, on his cruize off the Azores,

Azores, took a French polacre, called Le St. Jean, with one million three hundred thousand pieces of eight, registered at Cadiz; and on the 23d of July, a Spanish privateer. Captain Barnably, in the Litchfield, on his cruize off Porto Rico, in the month of September, took and destroyed four Spanish privateers, burnt a sloop in Aguada bay, and demolished a battery of four guns, under which the sloop was at anchor; and afterwards he landed some men with an officer, who spiked up the guns, burnt the carriages and guard-houses, carrying off the colours in sight of a great number of Spaniards, of whom the English killed about two hundred, with the loss of only one man. Some privateers fitted out at St. Christopher's had also been very successful; and the whole loss of the Spaniards this year in America, was computed at no less than ninety-five vessels, a great number of which were considerable prizes.

As the French were getting ready a considerable armament at Brest, a fleet of twelve men of war was ordered in the summer to rendezvous at Spithead, under Sir John Norris, who, as no intelligence was received of the French fleet being in readiness, did not take the command till the beginning of next year, when being augmented, proceeded to prevent the meditated invasion from Dunkirk.

In the Mediterranean, our naval affairs were in much the same situation as at the close of the preceding year, the fleet under Admiral Matthews remaining still at the isles of Hieres, to prevent the French and Spanish fleet getting out of Toulon. While Matthews lay here, some of his sailors, on the 10th of April, going on shore for refreshments to the town of Hieres, the French garrison refused them entrance, on which a scuffle ensued. The governor of Provence sent a reinforcement of six hundred men; and, as the English were assisted by the fleet, the fray did not end before thirty French and one hundred and twenty English were killed.

About the end of June, Admiral Matthews, understanding that fourteen xebecks, laden with artillery and ammunition for the Spaniſh army, had arrived at Genoa, ſailed thither from the road of Hieres, and demanded of the republic that they would either oblige theſe veſſels, with the ſtores, to quit their harbour, or ſequeſter their lading until a general peace ſhould be eſtabliſhed. After ſome diſpute, it was agreed that the cannon and ſtores ſhould be depoſited in the caſtle of Boniface, ſituated on a rock at the ſouth end of Corſica; and, that the xebecks ſhould have leave to retire without moleſtation. The Corſicans had ſome years before revolted, and ſhaken off the dominion of the Genoeſe, under which their iſland had remained for many centuries. They found themſelves oppreſſed, and reſolved to aſſert their freedom. They conferred the ſovereign authority on a German adventurer, who was ſolemnly proclaimed by the name of King Theodore. He had ſupplied them with ſome arms and ammunition, which he had brought from Tunis, and amuſed them with promiſes of being aſſiſted by foreign powers in retrieving their independency: but, as theſe promiſes were not performed, they treated him ſo roughly, that he had thought proper to quit the iſland, and they ſubmitted again to their old maſters. The troubles of Corſica were now revived. Theodore reviſited his kingdom, and was recognized by the principal chiefs of the iſland. He publiſhed a manifeſto: he granted a general pardon to all his ſubjects who ſhould return to their obedience: he pretended to be countenanced and ſupported by the King of Great Britain and the Queen of Hungary. He was certainly thought a proper inſtrument to perplex and haraſs the Genoeſe, and ſupplied at this juncture with a ſum of money to purchaſe arms for the Corſicans: but a change ſoon happened in the Britiſh miniſtry, and then he was ſuffered to relapſe into his original obſcurity. Admiral Matthews, though he did not undertake any expedition

dition of importance againſt the maritime towns of Spain, continued to aſſert the Britiſh empire at ſea through the whole extent of the Mediterranean. The Spaniſh army under Don Philip was no ſooner in motion, than the Engliſh admiral ordered ſome troops and cannon to be diſembarked for the ſecurity of Villa-Franca. Some ſtores having been landed at Civita-Vecchia, for the uſe of the Spaniſh forces under Count Gages, Matthews interpreted this tranſaction into a violation of the neutrality which the pope had profeſſed; and ſent thither a ſquadron to bombard the place. The city of Rome was filled with conſternation; and the pope had recourſe to the good offices of his Sardinian majeſty, in conſequence of which the Engliſh ſquadron was ordered to withdraw. The captains of ſingle cruiſing ſhips, by their activity and vigilence, wholly interrupted the commerce of Spain; cannonaded and burned ſome towns on the ſea-ſide; and kept the whole coaſt in continual alarm.

On the continent of America, the operations of the war were very inconſiderable. General Oglethorpe, having received intelligence, that the Spaniards prepared for another invaſion from St. Auguſtine, aſſembled a body of Indians, as a reinforcement to part of his own regiment, with the highlanders and rangers, and in the ſpring began his march, in order to anticipate the enemy. He encamped for ſome time in the neighbourhood of St. Auguſtine, by way of defiance; but they did not think proper to hazard an engagement; and, as he was in no condition to undertake a ſiege, he returned to Georgia. In October, the Princeſs Louiſa, youngeſt daughter of his Britannic majeſty, was married by proxy, at Hanover, to the Prince Royal of Denmark, who met her at Altena, and conducted her to Copenhagen.

The parliament met in the beginning of December, 1743. The houſe of commons voted ſix millions and a half for the ſervice of the year 1744, be-

ſide three millions and a half paid to the ſinking-fund in perpetual taxes; ſo that the year's ſupplies amounted to ten millions. The funds eſtabliſhed for the annual charge were the land and malt taxes; one million paid by the Eaſt-India company for a renewal of their charter; one million two hundred thouſand pounds by annuities; one million from the ſinking-fund; ſix-and-thirty thouſand pounds from the tonnage; and ſix hundred thouſand pounds by a lottery.

At this time party contentions were carried on with ſuch violence, that the French miniſtry concluded the nation to be ripe for a revolt; and this opinion was corroborated by the aſſertions of the Jacobites, whoſe ſtrong prejudices, and warm imaginations, made them ſee every thing through the medium of paſſion and party; whence they informed the court of Verſailles, that if the Chevalier de St. George, or his eldeſt ſon Charles Edward ſhould appear at the head of a French army in Great Britain, a revolution in his favour would inſtantly follow. This intimation was agreeable to Cardinal Tencin, who, upon the death of Cardinal Fleury, which happened this year, had become prime-miniſter of France. He was of a violent enterpriſing temper. He had been recommended to the purple by the Chevalier de St. George, and was ſeemingly attached to the Stuart family. His ambition was flattered with the proſpect of giving a king to Great Britain; of performing ſuch eminent ſervice to his benefactor, and of reſtoring to the throne of their anceſtors, a family connected by the ties of blood with all the greateſt princes of Europe. The miniſtry of France foreſaw, that even if this aim ſhould miſcarry, a deſcent upon Great Britain would make a conſiderable diverſion from the continent in favour of France, and embroil and embarraſs his Britannic majeſty, who was the chief ſupport of the houſe of Auſtria and all its allies. Actuated by theſe motives, he concerted meaſures with the Chevalier de St. George, at Rome, who, being too

too much advanced in years to engage perſonally in ſuch an expedition, agreed to delegate his pretenſions and authority to his ſon Charles, a youth of promiſing talents, ſecret, brave, and enterpriſing, amiable in his perſon, grave, and even reſerved, in his deportment. He approved himſelf in the ſequel, compoſed and moderate in ſucceſs, wonderfully firm in adverſity; and, though tenderly nurſed in all the delights of an effeminate country and gentle climate, patient almoſt beyond belief of cold, hunger, and fatigue. Such was the adventurer now deſtined to fulfil the hopes which the French miniſtry had conceived, from the projected invaſion of Great Britain.

Count Saxe was appointed by the French king commander of the troops deſigned for this expediton, which amounted to fifteen thouſand men. They began their march to Picardy, and a great number of veſſels was aſſembled for their embarkation, at Dunkirk, Calais, and Boulogne. It was determined that they ſhould be landed in Kent, under convoy of a ſtrong ſquadron equipped at Breſt, and commanded by Monſieur de Roquefeuille, an officer of experience and capacity. The Chevalier de St. George is ſaid to have required the perſonal ſervice of the Duke of Ormond, who excuſed himſelf on account of his advanced age.

Prince Charles departed from Rome about the end of December, in the diſguiſe of a Spaniſh courier, attended by one ſervant only, and furniſhed with paſſports by Cardinal Aquaviva. He travelled through Tuſcany to Genoa, from whence he proceeded to Savona, where he embarked for Antibes, and proſecuting his journey to Paris, was indulged with a private audience of the French king: then he ſet out incognito for the coaſt of Picardy. The Britiſh miniſtry, being appriſed of his arrival in France, at once comprehended the deſtination of the armaments prepared at Breſt and Boulogne. Mr. Thompſon, the Engliſh reſident at Paris, received orders to make a remonſtrance to the French

French miniſtry, on the violation of thoſe treaties by which the pretender to the crown of Great Britain was excluded from the territories of France. But he was given to underſtand, that his moſt chriſtian majeſty would not explain himſelf on that ſubject, until the King of England ſhould have given ſatisfaction on the repeated complaints which had been made to him, touching the infractions of thoſe very treaties which had been ſo often violated by his orders.

In the month of January M. de Roquefeuille ſailed from Breſt, directing his courſe up the Engliſh channel, with twenty ſhips of war. They were immediately diſcovered by an Engliſh cruiſer, which ran into Plymouth; and the intelligence was conveyed by land to the board of Admiralty. Sir John Norris was forthwith ordered to take the command of the ſquadron at Spithead, with which he ſailed round to the Downs, where he was joined by ſome ſhips of the line from Chatham, and then he found himſelf at the head of a ſquadron conſiderably ſtronger than that of the enemy. Several regiments marched to the ſouthern coaſt of England: all governors and commanders were ordered to repair immediately to their reſpective poſts: the forts at the mouth of the Thames and Medway were put in a poſture of defence; and directions were iſſued to aſſemble the Kentiſh militia, to defend the coaſt in caſe of an invaſion. On the 15th of February, 1744, the king ſent a meſſage to both houſes of parliament, intimating the arrival of the pretender's ſon in France, the preparations at Dunkirk, and the appearance of a French fleet in the Engliſh channel. They joined in an addreſs, declaring their indignation and abhorrence of the deſign formed in favour of a popiſh pretender; and, aſſuring his majeſty, that they would, with the warmeſt zeal and unanimity, take ſuch meaſures as would enable him to fruſtrate and defeat ſo deſperate and inſolent an attempt. Addreſſes of the ſame kind were preſented by the city of London, both univerſities,

ſities, the principal towns of Great Britain, the clergy, the diſſenting miniſters, the quakers, and almoſt all the corporations and communities of the kingdom. A requiſition was made of the ſix thouſand auxiliaries, which the ſtates-general were obliged to furniſh on ſuch occaſions, and theſe were granted with great alacrity and expedition. The Earl of Stair, forgetting his wrongs, took this opportunity of offering his ſervices to government, and was re-inveſted with the chief command of the forces in Great Britain. His example was followed by ſeveral noblemen of the firſt rank. The Duke of Montague was permitted to raiſe a regiment of horſe; and orders were ſent to bring over ſix thouſand of the Britiſh troops from Flanders, in caſe the invaſion ſhould actually take place. His majeſty was, in another addreſs from parliament, exhorted to augment his forces by ſea and land: the habeas corpus act was ſuſpended for ſix months, and ſeveral perſons of diſtinction were apprehended on ſuſpicion of treaſonable practices: a proclamation was iſſued for putting the laws in execution againſt papiſts and nonjurors, who were commanded to retire ten miles from London; and every precaution was taken which ſeemed neceſſary for the preſervation of the public tranquillity.

Meanwhile the French court proceeded with their preparations at Boulogne and Dunkirk, under the eye of the young pretender, and ſeven thouſand men were actually embarked. M. de Roquefeuille ſailed up the channel as far as Dungeneſs, a promontory on the coaſt of Kent, after having detached M. de Barreil with five ſhips to haſten the embarkation at Dunkirk. While the French admiral anchored off Dungeneſs, he perceived, on the 24th of February, the Britiſh fleet, under Sir John Norris, doubling the ſouth foreland from the Downs: and, though the wind was againſt him, taking the opportunity of the tide to come up and engage the French ſquadron. Roquefeuille, who little expected ſuch a viſit, could not be altogether compoſed, conſidering

conſidering the great ſuperiority of his enemies: but the tide failing, the Engliſh admiral was obliged to anchor two leagues ſhort of the enemy. In this interval M. de Roquefeuille called a council of war, in which it was determined to avoid an engagement, weigh anchor at ſun-ſet, and make the beſt of their way to the place from whence they had ſet ſail. This reſolution was favoured by a very hard gale of wind, which began to blow from the north-eaſt, and carried them down the channel with incredible expedition. But the ſame ſtorm, which, in all probability, ſaved their fleet from deſtruction, utterly diſconcerted the deſign of invading England. A great number of tranſports were driven aſhore and deſtroyed, and the reſt were ſo damaged that they could not be ſpeedily repaired. The Engliſh were now maſters at ſea, and their coaſt was ſo well guarded, that the enterprize could not be proſecuted with any probability of ſucceſs. The French generals nominated to ſerve in this expedition returned to Paris, and the young pretender reſolved to wait a more favourable opportunity.

The French king no longer preſerved any meaſures with the court of London: the Britiſh reſident at Paris was given to underſtand, that a declaration of war muſt enſue; and this was actually publiſhed on the 20th of March. The King of Great Britain was taxed with having diſſuaded the court of Vienna from entertaining any thoughts of an accommodation; with having infringed the convention of Hanover; with having exerciſed piracy on the ſubjects of France; and with having blocked up the harbour of Toulon. On the 31ſt of March, a like denunciation of war againſt France was publiſhed at London, amidſt the acclamations of the people. In this declaration the French king is charged with having violated his ſolemn engagements in the guaranty of the pragmatic ſanction given by him in the year 1738, in conſideration of the ceſſion of Lorraine: with having given encouragement and

and support to the Spaniards whilst at war with Great Britain, contrary to every principle of good faith; and with having concerted measures with Spain for attacking a principal settlement possessed by the English in America, the fullest proof of which was obtained by a duplicate of the order, dated the 7th of October, 1740, having fallen into the hands of the commander in chief of the British fleet in the West-Indies; whilst, at the same time, the strongest assurances were given by the court of France of their friendly disposition. It farther charges that power with having continued the same offensive conduct in the Mediterranean, in the year 1741, in joining and protecting the ships of Spain, when the English fleet was preparing to attack them; with breach of treaties in repairing the fortifications, and erecting new works at Dunkirk; in admitting the son of the pretender to the crown of Great Britain into the dominions of France: in sending a squadron of French ships into the channel, in order to favour a descent on England: and, it concludes with disavowing all the charges brought against the King of Great Britain in the French declaration.

The chief naval strength of the belligerent powers was collected, as it used to be in former wars, in the Mediterranean. Here Admiral Matthews rode triumphant before Toulon, in which harbour the combined fleets of France and Spain were ignominiously pent up. At length a positive order was sent from the court of France, to their admiral de Court, to put to sea at all events, in order to join a squadron expected from Brest, and even to risk an engagement with the English, if the junction could not be effected without it. Sixteen Spanish men of war lay in the harbour, but the Spaniards had only a sufficient number of sailors and gunners to work twelve. The French fleet consisted of sixteen ships of the line, four frigates, and three fire-ships. M. de Court, the French admiral, at the age of fourscore, enjoyed all the vigour of body and

mind which such a station required. Forty years had elapsed since the sea fight off Malaga, where he had served as captain on-board the admiral's ship, and since that time there had been no general engagement at sea in any part of the world, except that off Messina, in 1718.

On the 10th of February the two contending fleets got under sail, and, being each drawn up in line of battle, advanced to meet the other. The British fleet consisted of forty sail; the French and Spaniards thirty-four: but, as Lestock's division, thirteen ships, did not fight at all, we can reckon our own fleet only as twenty-seven sail.

The English had the advantage of the wind, a circumstance of as much consequence at sea, as an advantageous post is on land. That nation was the first who ranged their naval forces in the order of battle which is now in use, and it is from them that other nations have learned to dispose their fleets into the divisions of van, main, and rear. Matthews was eager to come to action, but de Court chose rather to avoid one, for which purpose he endeavoured to stretch to the southward.

On the 11th at break of day, the combined squadrons having made sail during the night, with little wind easterly, had got somewhat farther off, whilst the English had been driven by the currents between them and Toulon; upon which Admiral Matthews made the signal for bearing down. At this time the English fleet was very much extended, the headmost ship in the van being distant from the sternmost in the rear full three leagues. At half an hour past eleven o'clock at noon, Matthews perceiving the backwardness of his adversary to engage, threw out the signal for a general engagement. By one o'clock the two fleets had neared each other considerably, but the regular arrangement was now inverted. The van of the British fleet was opposed to the centre of the combined fleet; the French van, under Commodore Gabaret, was greatly ahead,

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and Admiral Matthews, with the centre diviſion, was abreaſt of the Spaniſh fleet, which compoſed the rear of the enemy; and Vice-admiral Leſtock was greatly aſtern, and, as there was little wind and a great ſwell, he had little chance of making way ſo as to come up with and engage the Spaniards. This was the important moment for attacking the Spaniſh fleet, and Matthews, being of opinion that the regular form of an attack ſhould be adhered to or departed from according as the public ſervice was likely to be beſt promoted, bore down upon the Spaniſh admiral, throwing out the ſignal for engaging, while that for the line of battle was ſtill diſplayed, which was a fatal indiſcretion, and tended greatly to embarraſs thoſe who were to act under theſe directions. However, though Leſtock made no haſte to come up with the flying enemy, which it was his unqueſtionable duty to have done, yet had the intrepidity of Matthews been properly ſeconded by every ſhip in his own diviſion, the Spaniſh fleet might have been as effectually ſubdued as it was ſix-and-twenty years before by Sir George Byng.

The admiral in the Namur, and Captain Cornwall in the Marlborough, ſingled out the Spaniſh admiral Navarro, in the Real, or Royal Philip, and the Iſabella his ſecond, and very gallantly began the action, within piſtol-ſhot, about half an hour paſt one o'clock.

At the ſame time Captain Forbes in the Norfolk, bore down, and engaged the Conſtant, the ſecond a-head of Don Navarro; and the Princeſſa, Somerſet, Bedford, Dragon, and Kingſton, fired at the Poder, the ſhip next ahead of the Conſtant; the Orient, Amerique, and Neptune, the three headmoſt ſhips of the Poder, exchanged a broadſide with the headmoſt ſhips of the Britiſh centre, and continued their courſe to the ſouthward with the French ſquadron, making in all nineteen ſhips of the line; and the five other Spaniſh ſhips were at a conſiderable diſtance aſtern of their admiral, though theſe ſhips might have been kept be-

fore the wind by Vice-admiral Leſtock, if the neceſſity ſo urgent before his eyes could have prevailed on him to conceive himſelf juſtified in breaking the line while the ſignal was unaltered: yet ſtill he kept at a great diſtance from the line. But about two o'clock Rear-admiral Rowley, and Captain Oſborne in the Princeſs Caroline, got along-ſide the French admiral, and the Ferme his ſecond, and engaged them for ſome time; the Berwick and Chicheſter alſo fired at the French, but at too great a diſtance, while the Naſſau, Warwick, and Sterling Caſtle, the three other headmoſt ſhips of this diviſion, though there was no ſignal of direction to the contrary, did not engage, according to the ſignal abroad, but kept their wind, endeavouring to prevent the French from tacking and doubling upon them, who had ſo great a ſuperiority, as nineteen againſt ſeven, the Kingſton and Somerſet having got ſo far ahead as to fall in among the centre. Admiral Rowley continued the engagement againſt the French admiral with great obſtinacy and judgment, aſſiſted moſt gallantly by Captain Oſborne; and, as ſeven other ſhips of the French diviſion began to fire, this prevented Admiral de Court tacking his diviſion to the aſſiſtance of the Spaniards; neither could Commodore Gabaret do it with the van, without running the hazard of being ſurrounded by that of the Engliſh, which had the wind of them, and kept it with ſuch diſcretion, as prevented the reſt of the French from engaging, and added greatly to the reputation of the commanding officer.

A conſtant fire was maintained, with great warmth, by the Namur and the Marlborough, againſt Don Navarro and his ſecond, both of whom behaved with great valour; but the Norfolk, after engaging three quarters of an hour, obliged the Conſtant to bear away out of the line much diſabled; upon which the Spaniſh admiral and his ſecond aſtern, notwithſtanding their warm work with the Namur and Marlborough, fired ſome guns at her to bring her back, but to no purpoſe; for

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she continued to lie to leeward, and never more returned to the engagement. The Norfolk did not think proper to quit the line in pursuit of her, and, having now no antagonist, she lay to windward, having twenty men killed and twenty-five wounded, with her rigging, masts, and yards, considerably shattered. The Namur and Marlborough being just aboard of one another, obliged Admiral Matthews to fill his sails and go ahead, in the heat of the action, though his masts, yards, and rigging, were so much disabled, as to occasion the greatest difficulty in managing the ship, which was encreased by having but little wind with a great swell; and the mizen top sail being handed to prevent the masts and rigging tumbling about their ears, though he reeved new braces three several times; so that he could not give the Marlborough the assistance Captain Cornwall wanted, whose behaviour merited all imaginable applause. Cornwall had lost both his legs by an unfortunate shot; and the Marlborough, at three of the clock, had her main and mizen masts shot by the board, the fall of which killed her heroic commander; nevertheless she was fought bravely by her second lieutenant, (the first lieutenant, who was the captain's nephew, being also killed,) and making good fires upon her opponents, though she had no assistance from her neighbours in the line, which continued lying to windward, and firing at the Spanish ships in the rear, not within gun-shot, though the admiral had sent orders for them to bear down to her assistance. The Real, or Royal Philip, lying disabled with her stern to the Marlborough, her second gone, and the ship astern not yet come up at four o'clock; the Ann galley fireship was ordered to prime with the utmost dispatch, and go down upon the Spanish admiral and burn him: but before she could be got ready the Spanish ships astern passed by Vice-admiral Lestock, who fired a broadside at the sternmost ship, but could not stop her from going ahead, which gave them an opportunity of re-inforcing the Spanish

Spaniſh admiral, juſt as the fireſhip was approaching the Royal Philip, theſe ſhips fired at her all the way ſhe was advancing. The fireſhip being within a cable's length of the Spaniſh admiral, was ſet on fire; but the Spaniards pouring into her bows a great number of ſhot, immediately ſunk her, though ſhe was not her own length at that time from the Royal Philip, and ſhe went down all in a blaze, with Captain Mackey her brave commander, his lieutenant Hilliers, his gunner, and twelve men, whoſe fate was participated by fifty Spaniards, who had been ſent in a launch from the Royal Philip to take her, and, arriving cloſe under her the very moment ſhe blew up, periſhed in the flames.

About five o'clock, the Marlborough, being dreadfully ſhattered, and almoſt torn to pieces, was towed out of the line. The Spaniards fired chiefly at the maſts and rigging, by which, although Admiral Matthews engaged the Real within piſtol-ſhot, he had only nine men killed and forty wounded: Captain Ruſſel, who commanded the Namur, had his left arm ſhot off by the firſt broadſide; whilſt a dreadful carnage was made on-board the Spaniſh admiral's ſhip, notwithſtanding which, ſhe maintained the action with unabating ſpirit. The Dorſetſhire, Eſſex, Rupert, and Royal Oak, very feebly ſupported their admiral; had they diſcovered the ſame alacrity as the Marlborough, the Spaniſh ſhips would moſt probably have been deſtroyed or taken. During the fierceſt part of the action, Admiral Matthews is ſaid to have ſtood on the quarter-deck, or arms cheſt, obſerving with his glaſs the manœuvres of the enemy, and, although a ſhot carried away the plank he leant upon, it occaſioned no viſible change in his countenance or deportment.

Whilſt theſe tranſactions paſſed between the centre of the Britiſh fleet and the rear of the combined fleet, Admiral Rowley, who commanded the Britiſh van, and hoiſted his flag on-board the Barfleur, being ſeconded by the Princeſs Caroline, Captain Oſborne, engaged

engaged the French admiral and his second for three glasses, during which time the conflict was maintained with great firmness on both sides. De Court perceiving the perilous situation of his rear, being sensible that their total destruction would follow upon the English rear bearing down, at three o'clock threw out the signal for his van to tack and make sail to the relief of the Spanish ships, hoping thereby to enclose Admiral Matthews between two fires, but the Sterling Castle, Warwick, and Nassau, assisted by the Chatham, (a fifty gun ship not of the line,) being to windward of the French van, hung upon it for a considerable time, and prevented those ships from complying with the French admiral's signal. It was not till five o'clock that the French squadron were able to tack, upon which Admiral Rowley did the same, and hastened to join the centre. All this time Lestock was not come up, although four of the sternmost of the Spanish ships, who, at the beginning of the action, were equally distant from their admiral as he was from his, found means to get up to assist him.

The Poder, a sixty-gun ship, lying ahead of the Real, or Royal Philip, was fired at by the Princessa, Somerset, Dragon, Bedford, Kingston, and by the Salisbury and Guernsey frigates, of fifty guns, but not within gunshot; which conduct, as it did not annoy the enemy, exposed the several commanders to ridicule. As these ships were intermixed, and made a confused random fire, they were more exposed to their own shot than to that of the enemy, and the Somerset is said to have received many from the Kingston. At length the Berwick bore down upon the Poder, and engaged her in a manner becoming the British honour. The Spaniard made a vigorous resistance, having five hundred men on-board, but, losing her main-mast and fore-top-mast she struck. Several officers boarded her, claiming the honour of the capture; but the captain pointed to the Berwick, and delivered his sword to her lieutenant, saying,

saying, he held the others in the greatest contempt. The French squadron came up just as the Poder had struck to the Berwick, so that Captain Hawke had only time to take out the Spanish captain, and four of his principal officers, it being impossible to do any thing with the ship, as it was almost dark, and she had not a mast standing, which obliged him to leave her to the French; but his fourth lieutenant and twenty-three men could not be got out of her. The Spanish squadron being thus joined by the French, their whole fleet was ranged in good order of battle. At half an hour past five, Admiral Matthews made the signal for the British fleet to draw into a line of battle ahead: at this time the Namur and some others of the same division, continued engaging with the Royal Philip and the sternmost ships which had joined her; but, night coming on, firing ceased on all sides, and the British fleet, being all formed in a line, passed on, leaving the Spanish ships greatly shattered, and almost entirely disabled.

The combined fleet took the opportunity of the night, which was very dark, to escape from ours, and avoid renewing the engagement, being taken up in towing their crippled ships before the wind. The British admiral thought it imprudent to continue the engagement after the night closed in, since the necessary orders by signals could not have been distinguished, nor indeed an enemy known from a friend.

Admiral Matthews about eight o'clock at night shifted his ship, and hoisted his flag on-board the Russel, not caring, should there be an engagement next morning, to risk the falling of all the Namur's masts; and the admiral acquainted the vice and rear-admirals with his removal, directing them to keep near him all night: at the same time intimated to Lestock, a surprise at his behaviour, hoping he would be able to give good reasons for his conduct.

Next day the enemy appeared to leeward, with their crippled ships in tow, steering south-west and by west about

about six leagues distant. The admiral gave chase till night, when he brought to, that he might be joined by the ships astern. In the afternoon, Captain Watkins, of the Burford, joined the fleet. He had been in Hieres Bay the day before, and hearing the report of guns, and seeing the smoke, he made directly for the fleet. The Poder had been so very much disabled, as to retard the French in their sailing, but, when the British fleet bore down so near upon them, the French admiral ordered the Diamond to take out as many of the Spaniards on-board the Poder as possible; upon which several boats were sent, and, after taking out all the men, the ship was left behind. Admiral Matthews then sent the Essex ahead to burn the Poder, not being able to spare any of his squadron to carry her to Minorca, having just before sent the Marlborough thither, under convoy of the Oxford. The Poder was accordingly set on fire, and blew up about half an hour after nine. There was also reason to believe, that, had any wind sprung up, the French would have left the other crippled ships belonging to the Spaniards, as most of them had suffered greatly.

The next day, the 13th, they were perceived again, but at a greater distance, and pursued for some time. But at nine o'clock the wind coming to the eastward, and blowing very hard, Admiral Matthews, suspecting that the French admiral intended to decoy him down the Straits, where he might probably be reinforced by the Brest squadron, thought it most advisable to give over the chase, especially as several of his ships were greatly disabled in their masts; the admiral therefore made the signal to leave off chasing, and sent the Winchelsea, to recall Lestock, who at ten o'clock lost sight of the confederates, and the British fleet was never able to discover them afterwards.

Next day at noon, the ships having in some measure repaired their damages, the admiral made sail to the north-west, in hopes of meeting the confederate fleet,

and continued that day and night, making ſail in for the ſhore. But the combined ſquadrons, ſteering weſt-ſouth-weſt, had got on the coaſt of Spain, where, on the 14th, they were ſeparated in a hard gale; after which the French put into Alicant on the 16th, and the Spaniards arrived at Carthagena on the 17th. Matthews then bore away for Port Mahon, after having in vain attempted to recover his ſtation in Hieres Bay.

In this engagement the confederates loſt only one ſhip, the Poder of ſixty guns, a loſs which the Spaniards readily put up with, as it furniſhed them with an opportunity of getting all the reſt of their fleet into their own harbours, eſpecially as they had taken out all the men, and ſhe afterwards became of no ſervice to the captors. The Royal Philip was greatly damaged, having five hundred men either killed or wounded: among the former was Don Nicolas Geraldine, the Spaniſh captain; and among the latter was Admiral Navarro, who received two ſlight wounds: the Neptune loſt her captain, Don Henry Olivarez, with his firſt lieutenant, four officers, and near two hundred men; the Iſabella loſt ſome of her officers and three hundred men; but the reſt of the combined fleet received no conſiderable damage. The Britiſh ſquadron, beſides the Ann galley fireſhip, ſuffered principally in their maſts and rigging, towards which the confederate ſhips moſtly directed their ſhot; the Namur was greatly wounded in her rigging, having fifteen men killed, and the captain and fifty wounded; the Barfleur had but little hurt: and the whole loſs in the Britiſh fleet did not exceed four hundred men killed and wounded. But the greateſt loſs was by the death of the heroic Captain Cornwall, who, when his admiral was diſabled, intrepidly puſhed in with the Marlborough, between the Namur and the Spaniſh ſquadron, and, with a bravery moſt of the fleet were ſtrangers to, took on himſelf the whole fire of the Spaniſh line; by his noble behaviour

haviour extorting a confeſſion from the commanders he engaged with, that at leaſt one Britiſh captain had honourably maintained the glory of his nation. The concern expreſſed for the loſs of this brave man was general and ſincere; and, in order to perpetuate his memory, the parliament voted a ſplendid monument to be erected in Weſtminſter-abbey, at the public expence.

As ſoon as the Britiſh fleet had arrived at Port Mahon, Admiral Matthews tranſmitted to Vice-admiral Leſtock a number of queries, reſpecting his conduct on the 11th of February, requiring of him diſtinct anſwers to each. Theſe were returned the next day, and therein the vice-admiral aſſerted that he had crowded all the ſail his ſhip could carry to come up with the enemy. He charged the Dunkirk and Cambridge, who were ahead of him, with not making all the ſail in their power, and keeping to windward of their ſtation, particularly the Dunkirk, on which account he fired a ſhot to windward of them, as a ſignal, which they did not think proper to obſerve. To theſe anſwers Matthews replied, and the other rejoined. In the rejoinder Leſtock obſerves that, "though he had the honour to bear his majeſty's flag, yet he had always, even in the day of battle, been kept ignorant of the deſigns of the commander in chief, more ſo than many private captains."—Perhaps this paſſage ſerves to explain the true grounds of the late miſcarriage more fully than any thing which was ſaid on either ſide, during the whole altercation. The ſame day that Matthews received Leſtock's rejoinder, he ſuſpended him from his command, and ſent him priſoner to England, where, in his turn, he accuſed his accuſer. Long before this engagement, theſe two officers had expreſſed the moſt virulent reſentment againſt each other. Matthews was brave, open, and undiſguiſed; but proud, imperious, and precipitate. Leſtock had

ſignalized his courage on many occaſions, and perfectly underſtood the whole diſcipline of the navy; but he was cool, cunning, and vindictive. He had been treated ſupercilioufly by Matthews, and in revenge took advantage of his errors and precipitation. To gratify this paſſion, he betrayed the intereſt and glory of his country; for it is not to be doubted, but that he might have come up in time to engage; and, in that caſe, the fleets of France and Spain would in all likelihood have been deſtroyed: but he entrenched himſelf within the punctilios of diſcipline, and ſaw with pleaſure his antagoniſt expoſe himſelf to the hazard of death, ruin, and diſgrace. Matthews himſelf, in the ſequel, ſacrificed his duty to his reſentment, in reſtraining Leſtock from purſuing and attacking the combined ſquadrons on the third day after the engagement, when they appeared diſabled, and in maniteſt diſorder, and would have fallen an eaſy prey, had they been vigorouſly attacked. One can hardly, without indignation, reflect upon theſe inſtances, in which a community has ſo ſeverely ſuffered from the perſonal animoſity of individuals. The miſcarriage off Toulon became a ſubject of parliamentary enquiry in England. The commons in an addreſs to the throne, deſired that a court-martial might be appointed to try the delinquents. By this time Leſtock had accuſed Matthews and all the captains of his diviſion with miſbehaviour on the day of battle. The court-martial was conſtituted, and proceeded to trial. Several commanders of ſhips were caſhiered: Vice-admiral Leſtock was acquitted; and Admiral Matthews rendered incapable of ſerving for the future in his majeſty's navy. All the world knew that Leſtock kept aloof, and that Matthews ruſhed into the hotteſt part of the engagement. Yet the former triumphed on his trial, and the latter narrowly eſcaped the ſentence of death for cowardice and miſconduct. Such

deciſions

deciſions are not to be accounted for, except from prejudice and faction.

A ſimilar ſpirit of diſcord had gone forth among the commanders of the combined fleets; the Spaniſh admiral Navarro repreſented the conduct of De Court in ſuch a light to the miniſtry of Spain, that ſoon after his arrival in port he was ſuperſeded. On this occaſion he wrote to the Biſhop of Rennes, ambaſſador from the crown of France to the court of Spain. He begins with ſaying, "It is well known, my lord, that the ſea-officers in the ſervice of Spain have been for a long time a good deal out of humour with France, and that ſo long ago as the year 1741 I had the good fortune actually to ſave the Spaniſh ſquadron under the command of M. Navarro; and I ſaved it, in ſpite of all that officer could do; who out of mere affectation ſtood out to ſea, in the fight of Admiral Haddock; though he very well knew, that it was my order to keep within ſight of land, and that I was not bound to hazard the ſquadron under my command for the ſake of braving the Engliſh, under an admiral whoſe courage and conduct were not then to be queſtioned; having appeared on all occaſions, even to the Spaniards themſelves, not incapable of cenſure only, but above ſuſpicion." Towards the concluſion of his letter, he has the following remarkable paſſage: "It was not I, my lord, who forced M. Navarro to fight againſt all the rules of war and prudence; it was not I who ſeparated his ſhips from him and threw him in danger; but after he had taken ſo much pains, in ſpite of all that I could do, to get himſelf handſomely beat, it was I that came to his aſſiſtance, and gave him an opportunity of getting away, which otherwiſe he never could have had."

After the action at Toulon, nothing of conſequence was atchieved by the Britiſh ſquadron in the Mediterranean; and indeed the naval power of Great Britain was, during the ſummer, quite inactive. In the month of

of June, Commodore Anſon returned from his voyage of three years and nine months, in which he had ſurrounded the terraqueous globe. We have formerly obſerved, that he ſailed with a ſmall ſquadron to the South-ſea, in order to annoy the Spaniſh ſettlements of Chili and Peru. Two of his large ſhips having been ſeparated from him in a ſtorm before he weathered Cape Horn, had put into Rio de Janeiro, on the coaſt of Brazil, from whence they returned to Europe. A frigatecommanded by Captain Cheap was ſhipwrecked on a deſolate iſland in the South-ſea. Mr. Anſon having undergone a dreadful tempeſt, which diſperſed his fleet, arrived at the iſland of Juan Fernandez, where he was joined by the Glouceſter, a ſhip of the line, a ſloop, and a pink loaded with proviſions. Theſe were the remains of his ſquadron. He made prize of ſeveral veſſels; took and burned the little town of Payta: ſet ſail from the coaſt of Mexico, for the Philippine Iſles; and in this paſſage the Glouceſter was abandoned and ſunk: the other veſſels had been deſtroyed for want of men to navigate them, ſo that nothing now remained but the commodore's own ſhip, the Centurion, and that but very indifferently manned; for the crews had been horribly thinned by ſickneſs. Incredible were the hardſhips and miſery they ſuſtained from the ſhattered condition of the ſhips and the ſcorbutic diſorder, when they reached the plentiful iſland of Tinian, where they were ſupplied with the neceſſary refreſhments. Thence they proſecuted their voyage to the river of Canton in China, where the commodore ordered the ſhip to be ſheathed, and found means to procure a reinforcement of ſailors. The chief object of his attention was the rich annual ſhip that ſails between Acapulco in Mexico, and Manilla, one of the Philippine iſlands. In hopes of intercepting her, he ſet ſail for Canton, and ſteered his courſe back to the ſtraits of Manilla, where ſhe actually fell into his hands after a ſhort but vigorous engagement.

gagement. The prize was called Neuſtra Signora de Cabodonga, mounted with forty guns, manned with ſix hundred ſailors, and loaded with treaſure and effects to the value of three hundred and thirteen thouſand pounds ſterling: with this windfall, he returned to Canton; from whence he proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope, and proſecuted his voyage to England, where he arrived in ſafety. Though this fortunate commander enriched himſelf by an occurrence that may be termed almoſt accidental, the Britiſh nation was not indemnified for the expence of the expedition; and the original deſign was entirely defeated. Had the Manilla ſhip eſcaped the vigilance of the Engliſh commodore, he might have been, at his return to England, laid aſide as a ſuperanuated captain, and died in obſcurity: but his great wealth inveſted him with conſiderable influence, and added luſtre to his talents. He ſoon became the oracle which was conſulted in all naval deliberations; and the king raiſed him to the dignity of a peerage. In October following, the firſt diſtribution of prize-money to the officers and crew of the Centurion was made, when the proportion for the common ſailors was 300l. 1s. per man.

A fleet of Dutch men of war, conſiſting of twenty ſail, under the command of Admiral Baccherſt, arrived in the Downs the beginning of July, and proceeded to join the Engliſh fleet which lay at Portſmouth, under the command of Sir John Balchen. About the ſame time advice was received that a fleet of ſtore ſhips for the Mediterranean, which was convoyed by eleven ſhips of the line, and a bomb-ketch, commanded by Sir Charles Hardy, having put into Liſbon, the French fleet from Breſt compoſed of fourteen ſail of the line and ſix frigates, under the command of M. Rochambault, appeared off that harbour, and had prevented Sir Charles from putting to ſea, and proceeding on his voyage. As theſe ſupplies and re-inforcements were eſſentially neceſſary to enable

able the force in the Mediterranean to act, Sir John Balchen received orders to sail immediately in quest of the Brest fleet, having English and Dutch ships under his command, to the number of twenty sail, besides frigates and fireships.

The French admiral, on the first news of the approach of this fleet, quitted his station off Algrave, and retired to Cadiz. Sir Charles Hardy hereupon putting to sea, formed a junction with the combined fleet, which sailed to Gibraltar, where Sir John Balchen victualled the Mediterranean fleet, and re-inforcing the garrison of that place, he steered his course for England. On the 20th of September he lost sight of the coast of Galicia, and soon after entered the Bay of Biscay, directing his course towards Ushant; but a violent storm overtaking him, dispersed the whole fleet, and drove some of them to the entrance of the channel, where several of the ships suffered considerably, particularly the Exeter and the Duke, the first of whom lost her main and mizen-masts, and was under the necessity of throwing twelve of her guns overboard; and the latter had all her sails torn to pieces, and ten feet water in her hold. Vice-admiral Stewart, however, who was on-board the Duke, arrived with the greater part of the ships safe at Plymouth; and the whole fleet, except the Victory, came into port by the 10th of October. This ship, on-board of which Sir John Balchen had hoisted his flag, was considered as the largest and most beautiful first-rate in the world: she was separated from the rest of the fleet on the 4th, after which she was never seen or heard of; and this brave commander, with all his officers, volunteers, and crew, amounting to eleven hundred choice seamen, perished. It is generally supposed, that she struck upon a ridge of rocks called the Caskets, near Alderney, as repeated signals of distress were heard by the inhabitants of that island; but the wind blew so violently, that no boat could put out to their assistance.

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The loſs of this ſhip has been imputed to a defect in its conſtruction, and many complaints were at that time made concerning the principles on which the men of war were built, and the conduct of the ſurveyor-general of the navy. His majeſty was pleaſed to ſettle a penſion of five hundred pounds per annum during life on Lady Balchen, the admiral's widow. A few months before, the admiral had been appointed governor of Greenwich hoſpital, on the death of Sir John Jennings, ſoon after which the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him.

Nor was the Victory the only man of war that periſhed about this time: the Colcheſter, of fifty guns and four hundred men, ſailing from the Nore for the Downs, ſtruck on the ſands, between the Long Sand and Kentiſh Knock, about ſeven in the evening, on the 21ſt of September, in which ſituation ſhe continued till ten, before a boat could be got out to ſend for aſſiſtance, when a lieutenant, a midſhipman, and twelve ſailors, made the beſt of their way for Harwich; during which time the lights were put up in the ſhrouds, and one hundred and forty guns fired as ſignals of diſtreſs, which were anſwered by the Royal Sovereign at the Nore; but the wind being full eaſt, it was impoſſible to ſend her any relief. In this dangerous condition they were obliged to ſcuttle the ſhip to prevent her from ſinking among the ſands, and remained thus till the twenty-third in the evening, when the boat returned from Harwich with ſix fiſhing-veſſels; but, the ſea being rough, they could not get to the ſhip before morning, when three hundred and ſixty-five men, with the captain, were taken out alive; the ſick, being ſixteen in number, all periſhed; thirteen were drowned in attempting to ſave themſelves in the long boat, and about eleven more, beſides a lieutenant, periſhed. The ſurvivors were taken to Harwich, but the ſhip was ſoon after buried under the ſands; and for his negligence the

pilot was ſentenced by a court martial to ſuffer two years impriſonment.

Theſe loſſes were ſuſtained by the fury of the elements; but a more diſgraceful fate attended the Northumberland, a new ſhip, of ſeventy guns and four hundred and eighty men. She was commanded by Captain Watſon, who, whilſt cruiſing in the channel, fell in with three French men of war, viz. the Mars, of ſixty-eight guns and five hundred and eighty men, commanded by M. de Perrier; the Conſtant, of ſixty guns and four hundred and eighty men, commanded by M. Conflans; and the Venus, of twenty-ſix guns and two hundred and fifty men, commanded by M. de Dacher. The Northumberland ſuſtained this very unequal combat for three hours, with great firmneſs and ſpirit, till Captain Watſon was mortally wounded: ſhe then ſtruck her colours by order of the maſter, for which he was afterwards ſentenced by a court-martial to perpetual impriſonment. The French ſhips loſt one hundred and thirty men in the engagement, and their rigging was ſo ſhattered, that they intended to ſheer off as ſoon as it was dark. They carried the Northumberland into Breſt in great triumph, where Captain Watſon ſoon after died.—The Seaford, Captain Pie, and the Solebay, Captain Bury, both new twenty-gun ſhips, alſo the Grampus ſloop, Captain Bret, were likewiſe taken by part of Breſt ſquadron in the courſe of this year.

The war in Germany, which had been almoſt extinguiſhed in the laſt campaign, began to revive, and raged with redoubled violence. The emperor had ſolicited the mediation of his Britannic majeſty, for compromiſing the differences between him and the court of Vienna. Prince William of Heſſe Caſſel had conferred with the King of England on this ſubject; and a negociation was begun at Hanau. The emperor offered to diſmiſs the French auxiliaries, provided the Auſtrians would evacuate his hereditary dominions. Nay, Prince William

William and Lord Carteret, as plenipotentiaries, actually agreed to preliminaries, by which his Imperial majesty engaged to renounce the alliance of France, and throw himself into the arms of the maritime powers; to renounce all pretensions to the succession of the House of Austria; and to revive the vote of Bohemia in the electoral college, on condition of his being re-established in the possession of his dominions, recognized as emperor by the Queen of Hungary, and accommodated with a monthly subsidy for his maintenance, as his own territories were exhausted and impoverished by the war. By a separate article, the King of Great Britain promised to furnish him with three hundred thousand crowns, and to interpose his good offices with the Queen of Hungary, that his electoral dominions should be favourably treated. These preliminaries, though settled, were not signed. The court of Vienna was unwilling to part with their conquests in Bavaria and the Upper Palatinate. The queen trusted too much to the valour of her troops, and the wealth of her allies, to listen to such terms of accommodation; and, whatever arguments were used with the King of Britain, certain it is, the negociation was dropped, on pretence that the articles were disapproved by the ministry of England. The emperor, environed with distress, renewed his application to the King of Great Britain; and even declared that he would refer his cause to the determination of the maritime powers; but all his advances were discountenanced; and the treaty of Worms dispelled all hope of accommodation. In this manner did the British ministry reject the fairest opportunity that could possibly occur of terminating the war in Germany with honour and advantage, and of freeing their country from that insufferable burthen of expence under which she groaned.

The inflexibility of the house of Austria, and its chief ally, proved serviceable to the emperor. The forlorn situation of this unfortunate prince excited the

compaſſion of divers others: they reſented the inſolence with which the head of the empire had been treated by the court of Vienna; and they were alarmed at the increaſing power of a family, noted for pride, tyranny, and ambition. Theſe conſiderations gave riſe to the treaty of Frankfort, concluded between the emperor, the King of Pruſſia, the King of Sweden, as Landgrave of Heſſe Caſtle, and the Elector Palatine. They engaged to preſerve the conſtitution of the empire, according to the treaty of Weſtphalia, and to ſupport the emperor in his rank and dignity. They agreed to employ their good offices with the Queen of Hungary that ſhe might be induced to acknowledge the emperor, to reſtore his hereditary dominions, and give up the archives of the emperor that were in her poſſeſſion. They guaranteed to each other their reſpective territories: the diſputes about the ſucceſſion of the late emperor, they referred to the deciſion of the ſtates of the empire: they promiſed to aſſiſt one another in caſe of being attacked: and they invited the King of Poland, the Elector of Cologne, and the Biſhop of Liege, to accede to this treaty. Such was the confederacy which broke all the meaſures which had been concerted between the King of Great Britain and her Hungarian majeſty, for the operations of the campaign. In the mean time, the French declared war againſt this princeſs, on pretence that ſhe was obſtinately deaf to all terms of accommodation, and determined to carry the war into the territories of France. In her counter-declaration, ſhe taxed Louis with having infringed the moſt ſolemn engagement, with reſpect to the pragmatic ſanction; with having ſpirited up different pretenders, to lay claim to the ſucceſſion of the late emperor; with having endeavoured to inſtigate the common enemy of Chriſtendom againſt her; and with having acted the incendiary in the north of Europe, that the czarina might be prevented from aſſiſting the houſe of Auſtria, while his numerous

numerous armies overſpread the empire, and deſolated her hereditary countries. Theſe recriminations were literally true. The houſes of Bourbon and Auſtria had, for many centuries, been the common diſturbers and plagues of Europe.

The King of France, though in himſelf pacific and unenterpriſing, was ſtimulated by his miniſtry to taſte the glory of conqueſt in the Netherlands, where he had aſſembled an army of one hundred and twenty thouſand men, provided with a very formidable train of artillery. The chief command was veſted in Marſhal Count Saxe, who poſſeſſed great military talents, and proved one of the moſt fortunate generals of the age in which he lived. This general was originally a ſoldier of fortune, and natural ſon to Auguſtus king of Poland, by the famous Counteſs of Koningſmark. He had been bred from his youth in camps, and had ſhewn the moſt early inſtances of cool intrepidity. He, in the beginning of the war, had offered his ſervice to ſeveral crowns, and, among the reſt, it is ſaid, to that of England; but his offers were rejected. He was poſſeſſed of great military talents; and, by long habit, peſerved an equal compoſure in the midſt of battle, as as in a drawing-room at court.—On the other ſide, the allied forces, conſiſting of Engliſh, Hanoverians, Dutch, and Auſtrians, to the number of ſeventy thouſand effective men, were in the month of May aſſembled in the neighbourhood of Bruſſels, from whence they marched towards Oudenarde, and poſted themſelves behind the Schelde, being unable to retard the progreſs of the enemy. The French monarch, attended by his favourite ladies, with all the pomp of eaſtern luxury, arrived at Liſle on the twelfth of the ſame month; and in the adjacent plain reviewed his army. The ſtates-general, alarmed at his preparations, had, in a conference with his ambaſſador at the Hague, expreſſed their apprehenſions, and entreated his moſt Chriſtian majeſty would deſiſt from

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his design of attacking their barrier. Their remonstrances having proved ineffectual, they now sent a minister to wait upon that monarch, to enforce their former representations, and repeat their entreaties: but no regard was paid to his request. The French king told him, he was determined to prosecute the war with vigour, as his moderation had hitherto served to no other purpose, but that of rendering his enemies more intractable. Accordingly, his troops invested Menin, which was in seven days surrendered upon capitulation. Ypres, Fort Knocke, and Furnes, underwent the same fate; and on the twenty-ninth of June the King of France entered Dunkirk in triumph.

He had taken such precautions for the defence of Alsace, which was guarded by considerable armies under the command of Coigni and Seckendorf, that he thought he had nothing to fear from the Austrians in that quarter: besides, he had received secret assurances that the King of Prussia would declare for the emperor; so that he resolved to pursue his conquests in the Netherlands. But all his measures were defeated by the activity of Prince Charles of Lorraine, and his officers, who found means to pass the Rhine, and oblige the French and Bavarian generals to retire to Lampertheim, that they might cover Strasburgh. The Austrians made themselves masters of Haguenau and Saverne: they secured the passes of Lorraine; and laid all the country of Lower Alsace under contribution. The King of France was no sooner apprised of the prince's having passed the Rhine, and penetrated into this province, than he sent off a detachment of thirty thousand men from his army in Flanders to reinforce that under Marshal Coigny; and he himself began his journey from the Rhine, that he might in person check the progress of the enemy: but this design was anticipated by a severe distemper that overtook him at Metz in Lorraine. The physicians despaired of his life.

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The queen, with her children, and all the princes of the blood, haſtened from Verſailles to pay the laſt duties to their dying ſovereign, who, as a true penitent, diſmiſſed his concubines, and began to prepare himſelf for death: yet the ſtrength of his conſtitution triumphed over the fever, and his recovery was celebrated all over his dominions with uncommon marks of joy and affection.

In the mean time the ſchemes of the Auſtrian general were fruſtrated by the King of Pruſſia, who, in the month of Auguſt, entered the electorate of Saxony, at the head of a numerous army. There he declared, in a public manifeſto, that his aims were only to re-eſtabliſh the peace of the empire, and to ſupport the dignity of its head. In a reſcript, addreſſed to his miniſters at foreign courts, he accuſed the Queen of Hungary of obſtinacy, in refuſing to acknowledge the emperor, and reſtore his hereditary dominions: he ſaid, he had engaged in the league of Frankfort, to hinder the head of the empire from being oppreſſed: that he had no intention to violate the peace of Breſlau, or enter as a principal into this war: he affirmed, that his deſign was to act as auxiliary to the emperor, and eſtabliſh the quiet of Germany. He penetrated into Bohemia, and undertook the ſiege of Prague, the governor of which ſurrendered himſelf and his garriſon priſoners of war on the ſixteenth of September. He afterwards reduced Tabor, Bodweis, and Teyn, and in a word ſubdued the greateſt part of the kingdom; the Auſtrian forces in that country being in no condition to ſtop his progreſs. Nevertheleſs, he was ſoon obliged to relinquiſh his conqueſts. Prince Charles of Lorraine was recalled from Alſace, and repaſſed the Rhine in the face of the French army, commanded by the Marſhals de Coigni, Noailles, and Belleiſle. Then he marched to the Danube, laid the Upper Palatinate under contribution, and, entering Bohemia, joined the troops under Bathiani

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at Merotitz. The King of Poland, elector of Saxony, at this juncture, declared in favour of her Hungarian majesty. A convention for the mutual guarantee of their dominions, had been signed between those two powers in December; and now Prince Charles of Lorraine was reinforced by twenty thousand Saxon troops, under the conduct of the Duke of Saxe Weissenfels. The combined army was superior to that of his Prussian majesty, whom they resolved to engage. But he retired before them, and, having evacuated all the places he had garrisoned in Bohemia, retreated with precipitation to Silesia. There his troops were put into winter-quarters; and he himself returned to Berlin, extremely mortified at the issue of the campaign.

During these transactions, Count Seckendorf marched into Bavaria, at the head of a strong army, drove the Austrians out of that electorate, and the emperor regained possession of Munich, his capital, on the twenty-second of October. In August the French army passed the Rhine at Fort Louis, and invested the strong and important city of Fribourg, defended by General Demnitz, at the head of nine thousand veterans. The King of France arrived in the camp on the eleventh of October; and the siege was carried on with uncommon vigour. The Austrian governor made incredible efforts in the defence of the place, which he maintained until it was reduced to a heap of ruins, and one half of the garrison destroyed. At length, however, they were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of war, after the trenches had been open five-and-forty days, during which they had killed above fifteen thousand of the besiegers. With this conquest the French king closed the campaign, and his army was cantoned along the Rhine, under the inspection of Count Maillebois. By the detachments drawn from the French army in Flanders, Count Saxe had found himself considerably weaker than the confederates:

confederates: he threw up ſtrong intrenchments behind the Lys, where he remained on the defenſive, until he was reinforced by Count Clermont, who commanded a ſeparate body on the ſide of Nieuport. The allies, to the number of ſeventy thouſand, paſſed the Scheld, and advanced towards Helchin: but the enemy being ſo advantageouſly poſted, that they could not attack him with any proſpect of advantage, they filed off in ſight of Tournay; and on the eighth of Auguſt encamped in the plains of Liſle, in hope of drawing Count Saxe from the ſituation in which he was ſo ſtrongly fortified. Here they foraged for ſeveral days, and laid the open country under contribution: however, they made no attempt on the place itſelf, which in all prohability would have fallen into their hands had they inveſted it at their firſt approach; for then there was no other garriſon but two or three battallions of militia; but Count Saxe ſoon threw in a conſiderable reinforcement. The allies were unprovided with a train of battering cannon; and their commanders would not deviate from the uſual form of war. Beſides, they were divided in their opinions, and deſpiſed one another. General Wade, who commanded the Engliſh and Hanoverians, was a vain weak man, without confidence, weight, or authority; and the Auſtrian general, the Duke d'Aremberg, was proud and rapacious, devoid of talents or good behaviour. After having remained for ſome time in ſight of Liſle, and made a general forage without moleſtation, they retired to their former camp on the Scheld, from whence they ſoon marched into winter-quarters. Count Saxe at length quitted his lines; and, by way of retaliation, ſent out detachments to ravage the low countries, to the very gates of Ghent and Bruges. The conduct of the allied generals was ſeverely cenſured in England, and ridiculed in France, not only in private converſation but alſo on their pub-

lic theatres, where it became the ſubject of farces and pantomimes.

After the ſiege of Friburg, Marſhal Belleiſle and his brother happened, in their way to Berlin, to halt at a village on the foreſt of Hartz, dependent on the electorate of Hanover. There they were apprehended by the bailiff of the place, and conducted as priſoners to Oſterode; thence they were removed to Stade on the Elbe, where they embarked for England. They reſided at Windſor till the following year, when they were allowed the benefit of the cartel which had been eſtabliſhed between Great Britain and France at Frankfort, and releaſed accordingly, after they had been treated by the Britiſh nobility with that reſpect and hoſpitality which was due to their rank and merit.

The diſſentions in the Britiſh cabinet were now ripened into another revolution in the miniſtry. Lord Carteret, who was by this time Earl Granville in conſequence of his mother's death, had engroſſed the royal favour ſo much, that he had incurred the reſentment of thoſe who were diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of patriots, and entirely forfeited his popularity.

The Duke of Newcaſtle, and his brother Mr. Pelham, being very powerful from their parliamentary intereſt, engaged in a political alliance with the leading men in the oppoſition, againſt the prime miniſter and his meaſures. To this coalition was given the epithet of the Broad Bottom, as if it had been eſtabliſhed on a conſtitutional foundation, comprehending individuals of every claſs, without diſtinction of party. The appellation, however, which they aſſumed was afterwards converted into a term of deriſion. Earl Granville perceiving the gathering ſtorm, and foreſeeing the impoſſibility of withſtanding ſuch an oppoſition in parliament, wiſely avoided the impending danger and diſgrace, by a voluntary reſignation of his employments. The Earl of Harrington ſucceeded him as ſecretary of ſtate. The Duke of Bedford

Bedford was appointed firſt lord of the admiralty, and the Earl of Cheſterfield declared lord lieutenant of Ireland. The Lords Gower and Cobham were re-eſtabliſhed in the offices they had reſigned; Mr. Lyttleton was admitted as a commiſſioner of the treaſury; even Sir John Hynd Cotton accepted of a place at court; and Sir John Philips ſat at the board of trade and plantations, though he ſoon renounced this employment. This was rather a change of men than of meaſures, and turned out to the eaſe and advantage of the ſovereign; for his views were no longer thwarted by an obſtinate oppoſition in parliament. The ſeſſion was opened on the twenty-eighth of November, in the uſual manner. The commons unanimouſly granted about ſix millions and an half for the ſervice of the year 1745, to be raiſed by the land, the malt, and the ſalt, taxes; the ſinking fund, and an additional duty on wines. In January, the Earl of Cheſterfield ſet out for the Hague, with the character of ambaſſador extraordinary, to perſuade, if poſſible, the ſtates-general to engage heartily in the war. About the ſame time a treaty of quadruple alliance was ſigned at Warſaw, by the Queen of Hungary, the King of Poland, and the maritime powers. This was a mutual guarantee of the dominions belonging to the contracting parties: but his Poliſh majeſty was paid for his concurrence, with an annual ſubſidy of 150,000l. two-thirds of which were defrayed by England, and the remainder was diſburſed by the united provinces.

The buſineſs of the Britiſh parliament being diſcuſſed, the ſeſſion was cloſed in the beginning of May; and, immediately after the prorogation, the king ſet out for Hanover. The death of the Emperor Charles VII. which happened in January, had entirely changed the face of affairs in the empire, and all the princes of Germany were in commotion. The Grand Duke of Tuſcany, conſort to her Hungarian majeſty, was

immediately declared a candidate for the imperial crown; while his pretenſions were warmly oppoſed by the French king and his allies. The court of Vienna, taking advantage of the late emperor's death, ſent an army to invade Bavaria in the month of March, under the conduct of General Bathiani, who routed the French and Palatine troops at Pfiffenhoven; took poſſeſſion of Rain; ſurrounded and diſarmed ſix thouſand Heſſians in the neighbourhood of Ingoldſtadt; and drove the Bavarian forces out of the electorate. The young Elector of Bavaria, ſon to Charles VII. was obliged to abandon his capital, and retire to Augſburgh, where he found himſelf in danger of loſing all his dominions. In this emergency, he yielded to the earneſt ſolicitations of the empreſs his mother, enforced by the advice of his uncle, the Elector of Cologn, and of his general, Count Seckendorff, who exhorted him to be reconciled to the court of Vienna. A negociation was immediately begun at Fueſſen, where, in April, the treaty was concluded. The queen conſented to recognize the imperial dignity, as having been veſted in the perſon of his father; to acknowledge his mother as empreſs dowager; to reſtore his dominions, with all the fortreſſes, artillery, ſtores, and ammunition, which ſhe had taken: on the other hand, he renounced all claim to the ſucceſſion of his father, and became guarantee of the pragmatic ſanction: he acknowledged the validity of the electoral vote of Bohemia in the perſon of the queen; and engaged to give his voice for the grand duke at the enſuing election of a king of the Romans. Until that ſhould be determined, both parties agreed that Ingoldſtadt ſhould be garriſoned by neutral troops; and that Braunau and Schardingen, with all the country lying between the Inn and the Saltza, ſhould remain in the queen's poſſeſſion, though without prejudice to the civil government, or the elector's revenue. In the mean time he diſmiſſed the

the auxiliaries that were in his pay, and they were permitted to retire without moleſtation.

The court of Vienna had now ſecured the votes of all the electors, except thoſe of Brandenburgh and the Palatinate. Nevertheleſs, France aſſembled a powerful army in the neighbourhood of Frankfort, in order to influence the election. But the Auſtrian army, commanded by the grand duke in perſon, marched thither from the Danube; and the Prince of Conti was obliged to re-paſs the Rhine at Nordlingen. Then the grand duke repaired to Frankfort, where, on the ſecond of September, he was by a majority of voices declared King of the Romans and Emperor of Germany.

Meanwhile the King of Pruſſia had made great progreſs in the conqueſt of Sileſia. The campaign began in January, when the Hungarian inſurgents were obliged to retire into Moravia. In the following month, the Pruſſian General Lehwald defeated a body of twelve thouſand Auſtrians, commanded by General Helfrich; the town of Ratibor was taken by aſſault; and the king entered Sileſia, in May, at the head of ſeventy thouſand men. Prince Charles of Lorraine, being joined by the Duke of Saxe Weſſenfels and twenty thouſand Saxons, penetrated into Sileſia by the defiles of Landſhut; and were attacked by his Pruſſian majeſty in the plains of Striegen, near Friedberg. The battle was maintained from morning till noon, when, the Saxons giving way, Prince Charles was obliged to retire with the loſs of twelve thouſand men, and a great number of colours, ſtandards, and artillery. This victory, obtained on the fourth of June, complete as it was, did not prove deciſive; for, though the victor transferred the ſeat of war into Bohemia, and maintained his army by raiſing contributions in that country, the Auſtrians reſolved to hazard another engagement. Their aim was to ſurpriſe him in his camp at Sohr, which they attacked

attacked on the thirtieth of September, at day-break: but they met with such a warm reception, that notwithstanding their repeated efforts during the space of four hours, they were repulsed with considerable damage, and retreated to Jaromire, leaving five thousand killed upon the spot, besides two thousand that were taken, with many standards, and twenty pieces of cannon. The loss of this battle was in a great measure owing to the avarice of the irregulars, who, having penetrated into the Prussian camp, began to pillage with great eagerness, giving the king an opportunity to rally his disordered troops, and restore the battle; nevertheless, they retired with the plunder of his baggage, including his military chest, the officers of his chancery, his own secretary, and all the papers of his cabinet.

After this action his Prussian majesty returned to Berlin, and breathed nothing but peace and moderation. In August he had signed a convention with the King of Great Britain, who became guarantee of his possessions in Silesia, as yielded by the treaty of Breslau; and he promised to vote for the Grand Duke of Tuscany at the election of an emperor. This was intended as the basis of a more general accommodation. But he now pretended to have received undoubted intelligence, that the King of Poland and the Queen of Hungary had agreed to invade Brandenburgh with three different armies; and, that for this purpose, his Polish majesty had demanded of the czarina the succours stipulated by treaty. Alarmed, or seemingly alarmed, at this information, he solicited the maritime powers to fulfil their engagements, and interpose their good offices with the court of Petersburgh. Yet, far from waiting for the result of these remonstrances, he made a sudden irruption into Lusatia, took possession of Gorlitz, and obliged Prince Charles of Lorraine to retire before him into Bohemia. Then he entered Leipsic, and laid

Saxony

Saxony under contribution. The King of Poland, unable to reſiſt the torrent, quitted his capital, and took refuge in Prague. His troops, reinforced by a body of Auſtrians, were defeated at Pirna on the fifteenth of December; and his Pruſſian majeſty became maſter of Dreſden without further oppoſition. The King of Poland, thus deprived of his hereditary dominions, was fain to acquieſce in ſuch terms as the conqueror thought proper to impoſe; and the treaty of Dreſden was concluded, under the mediation of his Britannic majeſty. By this convention the King of Pruſſia retained all the contributions he had levied in Saxony; and was entitled to a million of German crowns, to be paid by his Poliſh majeſty at the next fair at Leipſic. He and the elector palatine conſented to acknowledge the grand duke as Emperor of Germany; and this laſt confirmed to his Pruſſian majeſty certain privileges which had been granted by the late emperor, with regard to ſome territories poſſeſſed by the King of Pruſſia, though not belonging to the electorate of Brandenburgh. Immediately after the ratification of this treaty, the Pruſſian troops evacuated Saxony; and the peace of Germany was reſtored.

Though the French king could not prevent the elevation of the grand duke to the imperial throne, he reſolved to humble the houſe of Auſtria, by making a conqueſt of the Netherlands. A prodigious army was there aſſembled, under the auſpices of Marſhal Count Saxe; and, his moſt chriſtian majeſty, with the dauphin, arriving in the camp, they inveſted the ſtrong town of Tournay, on the thirtieth of April. The Dutch garriſon conſiſted of eight thouſand men, commanded by the old Baron Dorth, who made a vigorous defence. The Duke of Cumberland aſſumed the chief command of the allied army aſſembled at Soignies: he was aſſiſted with the advice of the Count Konigſeg, an Auſtrian general, and the Prince of Waldeck, commander of the Dutch forces. Their army

army was greatly inferior in number to that of the enemy; nevertheleſs, they reſolved to march to the relief of Tournay. They accordingly advanced to Leuſe; and on the twenty-eighth of April took poſt at Maulbre, in ſight of the French army, which was encamped on an eminence, from the village of Antoine to a large wood beyond Vezon, having Fontenoy in their front. Next day was employed by the allies in driving the enemy from ſome outpoſts, and clearing the defiles through which they were obliged to advance to the attack; while the French completed their batteries, and made the moſt formidable preparation for their reception. On the thirtieth of April, the Duke of Cumberland, having made the proper diſpoſitions, began his march to the enemy at two o'clock in the morning: a briſk cannonade enſued; and about nine both armies were engaged. The Britiſh infantry drove the French beyond their lines: but the left wing failing in the attack on the village of Fontenoy, and the cavalry forbearing to advance on the flanks, they meaſured back their ground with ſome diſorder, from the prodigious fire of the French batteries. They rallied, however, and, returning to the charge with redoubled ardour, repulſed the enemy to their camp with great ſlaughter; but, being wholly unſupported by the other wing, and expoſed both in front and flank to a dreadful fire, which did great execution, the duke was obliged to make the neceſſary diſpoſitions for a retreat about three o'clock in the afternoon; and this was effected in tolerable order. The battle was fought with great obſtinacy, and the carnage on both ſides was very conſiderable. The allies loſt about twelve thouſand men, including a good number of officers; among theſe were Lieutenant-general Campbell, and Major-general Ponſonby. The victory coſt the French almoſt an equal number of lives; and no honour was loſt by the vanquiſhed. Had the allies given battle on the preceding day, before

fore the enemy had taken their meaſures, and received all their reinforcements, they might have ſucceeded in their endeavours to relieve Tournay. Although the attack was generally judged raſh and precipitate, the Britiſh and Hanoverian troops fought with ſuch intrepidity and perſeverance, that if they had been properly ſuſtained by the Dutch forces, and their flanks covered by the cavalry, the French, in all likelihood, would have been obliged to abandon their enterpriſe. The Duke of Cumberland left his ſick and wounded to the humanity of the victors; and, retiring to Aeth, encamped in an advantageous ſituation at Leſſines. The garriſon of Tournay, though now deprived of all hope of ſuccour, maintained the place to the 21ſt of June, when the governor obtained an honourable capitulation.

After the conqueſt of this frontier, which was diſmantled, the Duke of Cumberland, apprehending the enemy had a deſign upon Ghent, ſent a detachment of four thouſand men to reinforce the garriſon of that city: but they fell into an ambuſcade at Pas-du-mêle; and were killed or taken, except a few dragoons that eſcaped to Oſtend. On that very night, which was the 12th of June, Ghent was ſurpriſed by a detachment of the French army.—Then they inveſted Oſtend, which, though defended by an Engliſh garriſon, and open to the ſea, was, after a ſhort ſiege, ſurrendered by capitulation, on the 14th of Auguſt. Dendermond, Oudenarde, Nieuport, and Aeth, underwent the ſame fate; while the allied army lay entrenched beyond the canal of Antwerp. The French king having ſubdued the greateſt part of the Auſtrian Netherlands, returned to Paris, which he entered in triumph.

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The Siege of Tournay.

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ton, in North America: a place of great conſequence, which the French had fortified at a prodigious expence. The iſland of Cape Breton had been confirmed to France by the peace of Utrecht. The cod-fiſhery carried on in thoſe parts was the ſource of an advantageous commerce, which employed annually above five hundred veſſels belonging to Bayonne, St. Jean de Luz, Havre de Grace, and other towns in France; theſe ſhips alſo brought home at leaſt three thouſand tons of oil, proper for a variety of manufactures: it was a nurſery for ſailors; and this commerce, joined to the cod-fiſhery, employed ten thouſand ſeamen, and circulated ten millions of livres, or near half a million ſterling. This iſland is ſituated at the entrance of the gulph of St. Lawrence, between the 45th and 47th degrees of north latitude. Newfoundland lies to the eaſt, on the ſame gulph, and is only fifteen or ſixteen leagues diſtant from it; and to the weſt, Acadia, or Nova Scotia, is only ſeparated from the iſland by a ſtrait, not more than three or four leagues over. Cape Breton, thus ſituated between the territories ceded to its enemies, threatened their poſſeſſions, while it protected thoſe of France. The iſland meaſures about thirty-ſix leagues in length, and twenty-two in its greateſt breadth. It is ſurrounded with little ſharp-pointed rocks, ſeparated from each other by the waves, above which ſome of their tops are viſible. All its harbours open to the eaſt, turning towards the ſouth. On the other parts of the coaſt there are but a few anchoring places for ſmall veſſels, in creeks, or in iflets. Except in the hilly parts, the ſurface of the country has but little ſolidity, being every where covered with a light moſs, and with water. The dampneſs of the ſoil is exhaled in fogs, without rendering the air unwholeſome. In other reſpects the climate is very cold, owing either to the prodigious quantity of lakes, which cover above half the iſland,

and

and remain frozen a long time, or the number of foreſts, that totally intercept the rays of the ſun; the effects of which is beſides decreaſed by perpetual clouds.

The harbour of Louiſbourg, ſituated on the eaſtern coaſt of the iſland, is at leaſt a league in depth, and above a quarter of a league broad in the narroweſt part. Its bottom is good, the ſoundings are uſually from ſix to ten fathom, and it is eaſy to tack about in it either to ſail in or out even in bad weather. It includes a ſmall gulph, very commodious for refitting ſhips of all ſizes, which may even winter there, with proper precautions. The only inconvenience attending this excellent harbour is, that it is frozen up from November till May, and frequently continues ſo till June. The entrance, which is naturally narrow, is alſo guarded by Goat Iſland; the cannon of which, playing upon a level with the ſurface of the water, would ſink ſhips of any ſize, that ſhould attempt to force a paſſage. The batteries, one of thirty ſix, the other of twelve twenty-four pounders, erected on the two oppoſite ſhores, would ſupport and croſs this formidable fire. The town is built on a neck of land that runs into the ſea, and is about half a league in circuit; the ſtreets are broad and regular. Almoſt all the houſes are made of wood. Thoſe that are of ſtone, were conſtructed at the expence of the government, and deſtined for the reception of the troops. A number of wharfs have been erected, that project a conſiderable way into the harbour, and are extremely convenient for loading and unloading the ſhips. The fortification of Louiſbourg was executed upon very good plans, and ſupplied with all the works that can render a place formidable. More than thirty millions of livres (1,312,500l. ſterling) were expended upon them. This was not thought too great a ſum for the ſupport of the fiſheries, for ſecuring the communication between France and Canada, and for obtaining a ſecurity or

retreat to ships in time of war coming from the southern islands.

The plan for reducing this fortress was planned at Boston in New England, recommended by their general assembly, and approved by the British cabinet. Instructions were sent from the board of admiralty to Commodore Warren, who commanded in the Leeward Islands, to sail for the northern parts of America, and co-operate with the naval forces of New England in this expedition. Meanwhile a lottery had been set on foot in America, which furnished a means of raising a small army of four thousand volunteers, which was accountred and provided with transports at the sole expence of the colony. The command of these troops was entrusted to Mr. Pepperel, a trader of Piscataway, whose influence was extensive in that country; notwithstanding he was a man bred to trade, with a very confined education, and unacquainted with military operations.

In April Mr. Warren arrived at Canso in Nova Scotia, with the Superbe, of sixty guns, the Lancefton, Eltham, and Mermaid, of forty guns each; here he found ten American privateers, and every thing in readiness for setting forward on the expedition. On the 30th of April they came to an anchor in Gabaron Bay, about a league from Louisbourg. Here the troops were landed, without the loss of a man, though Captain Marpang was sent at the head of a detachment of one hundred men to prevent their landing; but the fire from the ships soon dispersed them, and drove them into the woods, which prevented them from returning to Louisbourg.

While the troops were making great advances towards the reduction of the place, the commodore cruised off the harbour, and had the good fortune to take the Vigilante, a new French man of war of sixty-four guns and five hundred and sixty men, commanded by the Marquis de Maisonfort. She was laden

den with ſtores, a great number of battering cannon, one thouſand half-barrels of gunpowder, &c. the whole cargo valued at 60,000l. The commodore alſo took a large brigantine from France, laden with brandy and ſtores: two French ſhips and a ſnow were alſo taken by the Sunderland and the Cheſter, one of which was a French frigate called the Deliverance, and came from the South Seas, richly laden. By theſe fortunate acquiſitions, the French were deprived of all their expected ſuccours, and the town ſoon reduced to the utmoſt neceſſity.

A diſagreement ſubſiſted between the French officers and their ſoldiers, which prevented the governor, M. de Chambon, from taking the moſt active and effectual meaſures for the defence of the place. Had he muſtered his whole force, and fallen upon the New England troops whilſt they were forming their camp and beginning to open their trenches, he would moſt probably have proved ſucceſsful. Beſiegers unacquainted with the principles of the art of war, were very likely to be diſconcerted by regular and vigorous attacks. The firſt checks might have been ſufficient to diſcourage them, and make them relinquiſh the undertaking; but ſuch were the ſuſpicions which the officers entertained of their men, that, when they expreſſed an ardour to be led forth to action, they imputed it to a general deſign which the ſoldiers had formed of deſerting, and that it was with ſuch views alone that they were deſirous of ſallying out. The Abbé Raynal informs us, that this diſagreement took its riſe from the following circumſtance. The French ſoldiers had been employed for a conſiderable time, in repairing and ſtrengthening the fortifications of Louiſbourg; but, after they had exerted themſelves with ſingular ſpirit in this buſineſs, their officers, who had received from the French goverment full payment for the expences charged for theſe improvements, appropriated to themſelves

ſelves the whole money. The ſoldiers in vain aſſerted their right to a gratuity for their labour; they could obtain no redreſs. Hereupon their indignation againſt theſe rapacious extortioners roſe to ſuch a height, that they diſpiſed all authority. They had lived in open rebellion for ſix months when the Engliſh appeared before the place; but no ſooner was an enemy deſcried, than the ſoldiers expreſſed a readineſs to forget the injuries they had received, and to unite with their officers in the common cauſe of all; but their commanders, miſtruſting a generoſity of which they themſelves were incapable, could not conceive it poſſible that the ſoldiers were actuated by ſuch exalted ſentiments as to ſacrifice their own reſentment to the good of their country; they therefore kept them in a manner priſoners in the town.

While the American troops, re-inforced by eight hundred marines, carried on their approaches by land, the ſquadron blocked up the place by ſea ſo effectually as to prevent all kind of ſuccours being thrown in. A French ſhip of ſixty-four guns, with a ſupply of ammunition and other neceſſaries for the garriſon, fell into the hands of the Engliſh; ſoon after which the commodore was joined by the Canterbury and Sunderland, of ſixty guns each, and the Cheſter, of fifty guns; and on the 11th of June arrived the Princeſs Mary, the Hector, and the Lark. Through the whole progreſs of the ſiege, Commodore Warren gave the fulleſt proofs of vigilance, courage, and conſummate ſkill. The engineers from the ſhips, and the officers who commanded the marines, ſucceſsfully conducted the operations of the ſiege, whilſt the American troops cheerfully and bravely acted under their directions. The bombs which were thrown into the town having done great execution, and the governor ſeeing no poſſibility of receiving ſuccours, ſent a flag of truce to the Britiſh camp, and capitulated on the 17th of June, when the city of Louiſbourg and the iſland of Cape

Cape Breton were ſurrendered to his Britannic majeſty. The Engliſh preſcribed their own terms. The garriſon and inhabitants engaged that they would not bear arms againſt Great Britain or her allies during twelve months, and the Engliſh undertook to tranſport them, being two thouſand people, to France; they were therefore ſoon after embarked in fourteen cartel ſhips, and tranſported to Rochfort, to the great ſurprize of the French, who ſaw an entire new colony left upon their ſtrand by Engliſh ſhips.

The reduction of Louiſbourg proved fatal to the French Eaſt India Company. That body of merchants had undertaken to farm the fur-trade of Canada, ſo that their ſhips often touched at Louiſbourg. Soon after it fell into the hands of the Engliſh, two of thoſe ſhips ſailed into the harbour, ignorant of the fate which had befallen it: nor did the good fortune of the captors ſtop here; a large Weſt-Indiaman, named the Eſperance, which had been chaſed by privateers, having eſcaped them, fought an aſylum in the harbour of Louiſbourg, and there met the deſtiny it endeavoured to ſhun.

The news of the conqueſt of this iſland being tranſmitted to England, Mr. Pepperel was created a knight-baronet, and addreſſes were preſented to his majeſty from different parts of the kingdom, congratulating him on the ſucceſs of his arms.

A privateer called the Prince Frederic, about this time, had the good fortune to take two prizes, the value of which ſurpaſſed all the treaſure brought home by Commodore Anſon. Captain James Talbot, who commanded this fortunate cruiſer, ſailed from Cowes the 2d of June, in company with the Duke and Prince George, of which little ſquadron he was commodore. Five days after they had got to ſea, the Prince George, in chaſing a ſail which appeared in ſight, overſet, and no more than twenty of thoſe on-board could be ſaved, one hundred and fourteen perſons

fons periſhing. Captain Talbot proceeded with his two ſhips to the Weſtern Iſlands, and on the 10th of July, at ſix in the morning, three ſail were deſcried bearing weſtward. In about an hour they were plainly diſcerned to be French ſhips, and, as they ſhewed no diſpoſition to avoid an action, a warm engagement began. The Duke bore to windward, and waſted her fire to little purpoſe againſt one of the enemies ſhips. The Prince Frederic more judiciouſly bore down within piſtol-ſhot of one of them, when a warm fire was maintained for three hours. The French captain propoſed to his people to blow up the ſhip rather than ſurrender her; but he being mortally wounded the colours were ſtruck. Whilſt the Prince Frederic was thus engaged with one of the Frenchmen, the third, which was the largeſt, attacked her on her off bow, and put her between two fires. As ſoon as the firſt had ſtruck, Captain Talbot directed all his force againſt the other, who, notwithſtanding the loſs of her aſſociate, fought it out with great bravery for a conſiderable time longer. It was not until the captain had received a wound that obliged him to quit the deck that her colours were ſtruck. The whole day had been employed in this deperate ſervice, in all which time the Duke had not been able to maſter the ſmalleſt of the three ſhips which fell to her ſhare; and, when night approached, the Frenchman crowding ſail to get away, ſhe quitted him to aſſiſt the Prince Frederick, who had then got poſſeſſion of her two prizes. The brave Captain Talbot all this time imagined that he had been engaging two Martinico-men; but, when their officers were brought on-board the Prince Frederic, he was moſt agreeably ſurpriſed to find that they were freighted with treaſure from Callao in Peru, which had been put on-board theſe French ſhips to be tranſported to Europe with greater ſafety, as war had not been declared between France and England when thoſe ſhips ſailed. They

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were called the Marquis d'Antin, burthen four hundred and fifty tons, twenty-four guns, Captain Magon Serpere, and the Lewis Heraſma, five hundred tons, twenty-eight guns, Captain Pedro Luvigne Luenel; and the one that eſcaped was called Notre Dame de Liberance, of three hundred tons, and eighteen guns, Captain Pedro Litan. On-board the Prince Frederic five men were killed and twenty-five wounded. In the engagement, a youth named Maſterſon, who had ſailed with Commodore Anſon round the world, greatly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, and by his conduct contributed much to the ſucceſs of the day. It was with difficulty the French ſhips could be brought into port, having ſuffered ſo much in the action that they were obliged to be towed for three weeks, until they reached the harbour of Kinſale. They had been out four years, and were ſuppoſed to have a million ſterling on-board in gold and ſilver, beſides eight hundred tons of cocoa. A Spaniard, who had been governor of Peru was on-board one of theſe ſhips, beſides many French and Spaniards of great diſtinction. Such was the generoſity of the privateer's people, that they took none of the rings, watches, money, or other valuable effects, which the paſſengers had about their perſons; and, when they put the common men aſhore, they diſtributed to each man twenty guineas. When the wealth of theſe ſhips was divided, each ſailor of the two privateers had eight hundred and fifty guineas for his ſhare; the two captains had each three thouſand five hundred guineas, and the remainder was divided among the owners of the privateers, after it had been tranſported in triumph from Briſtol to London in forty-three waggons. Another circumſtance, well worthy of relating before we diſmiſs this memorable event, is, that many of thoſe who ſhared this prize-money made a voluntary tender of it to his majeſty, to enable him to ſupport the war; this offer

was accepted, and the proprietors received intereſt thereon.

Commodore Barnet, on the 5th of May, 1744, had ſailed from Portſmouth with four men of war for the Eaſt-Indies, in conſequence of an application which had been made by the Eaſt-India directors to the lords of the admiralty. The commodore, having doubled the Cape of Good Hope, touched at the iſland of Madagaſcar to take in water. Here the ſquadron ſeparated; Commodore Barnet in the Deptford, and Lord Northeſk in the Preſton, ſteered their courſe for the ſtraits of Sunda, while Captain Penton in the Medway, and Captain Moore in the Diamond, took a more northern courſe, deſigning to cruiſe in the ſtraits of Malacca. The general rendezvous was appointed at Batavia. As by one or other of theſe channels all ſhips from China enter the great Indian Ocean, they expected to make themſelves maſters of the French ſhips homeward-bound from thence, and which were provided with no other convoy than a fifty-gun ſhip. On the 25th of January, 1745, three ſail appeared in ſight of Commodore Barnet's diviſion, ſoon after his arrival at the deſtined ſpot. The commodore and Lord Northeſk had ſo effectually diſguiſed their ſhips by painting and rigging them in the Dutch manner, that the French came within muſket-ſhot, not doubting but that they were Dutchmen, till the commodore and Lord Northeſk ſtruck the Dutch, and hoiſted Engliſh, colours; but the French were ready to fire as ſoon as the commodore. The French ſhips were laden from Canton for Europe, being about ſeven hundred tons, with thirty guns, and one hundred and fifty men each, richly laden with tea, china-ware, and ſilk. Commodore Barnet gave the French commodore a broadſide, which he and his conſorts returned, and a ſharp engagement enſued. At the beginning of the action Lord Northeſk was ordered to board one of the China-men; but ſome of the

the firſt ſhot from the French cut the tiller ropes of both the men of war, as they were ſheering on-board, by which accident the opportunity was loſt; and Commodore Barnet fearing ſome of the French would eſcape, ſoon prevented them. The Preſton was not long in getting into her ſtation; and in about three glaſſes, after a gallant reſiſtance, the three French-men ſtruck, when the commodore took poſſeſſion of the prizes, and brought the French captains and ſupercargoes on-board the Deptford; where he was informed by the ſupercargoes, that the lading of each ſhip would have been worth above one hundred thouſand pounds ſterling in France.

The Medway and Diamond had alſo been diſguiſed like Dutchmen, and in their way to the Malacca ſtraits, called at Achem, where they found a French privateer, which had been fitted out, and ſent from Pondicherry to cruiſe in the China ſeas. They carried her with them through the ſtraits, and in their paſſage took a French ſhip from Manilla, with ſeventy-two cheſts of dollars on-board, containing three thouſand each, with two cheſts of gold worth thirty thouſand pounds. Afterwards they proceeded with their prizes to the ſtraits of Banca, where, waiting in expectation of the French ſhips from Canton, they ſaw the Calmar, a Swediſh Indiaman, on-board of which was an Engliſh officer with intelligence to the lords of the admiralty of the commodore's ſucceſs; upon which the Medway and Diamond reſolved to go to their rendezvous at Batavia, where the whole ſquadron ſoon after joined.

In the Weſt-Indies, Commodore Warren having taken ſo large a force for the northern expedition, the iſlands became very much expoſed to the attack of an enemy, Sir Chaloner Ogle having returned to England the beginning of the year, with ſix men of war. Therefore, for the ſecurity of theſe ſettlements, Vice-admiral Townſhend, who was then in the Mediterranean,

was ordered to proceed with a ſquadron of eight ſhips to the Weſt-Indies. He ſailed from Gibraltar on the 2d of Auguſt, and arrived before Martinico on the 3d of October, where he was joined by the Pembroke, of ſixty guns, and the Woolwich of fifty.

The iſland of Martinico had been long in great want of proviſions and ſtores; but the French had lately ſent Commodore Macnamara from Rochfort with ſeven men of war to convoy two hundred ſail of ſhips, laden with merchandiſe and proviſions. Admiral Townſhend, expecting the arrival of this fleet, waited till the 31ſt of October, when about ſeven in the morning he diſcovered forty ſail, being the French commodore, with four ſhips of his ſquadron and part of his convoy, coming round the ſouth point of Martinico, and cloſe under the land. Upon this the Britiſh ſquadron ſtood towards them, and formed a line of battle. But the vice-admiral, perceiving that the French commodore endeavoured to avoid coming to an engagement, ordered a general chace, and purſued the French with all poſſible expedition, which ſucceeded ſo well, that ſeveral of the French ſhips were driven to leeward, and taken by the Engliſh. In the mean time Vice admiral Townſend purſued the French men of war, and one of them, called the Ruby, of ſixty guns, carrying away her main-top-maſt, the Lenox got near enough to exchange ſome broadſides, and ſoon forced her aſhore in a ſandy bay, under a fortification on the ſouth ſide of the iſland. The commodore, in the Magnanime of eighty guns, got, with great difficulty, under the cannon of Fort Royal, and a battery of forty guns on the oppoſite ſhore; but in the hurry and confuſion run aground, where the ſhip received conſiderable damage. Townſhend ſpent the remainder of this and the three following days in cutting out, burning, and deſtroying, the merchant-ſhips, of which fifteen were taken, three burnt, and ſeveral bulged on the rocks, the firſt day

day of purſuit; and upon the whole, above thirty ſail of the French were either taken, ſunk, burnt, or deſtroyed. After this the Engliſh admiral put into Prince Rupert's bay, in the iſland of Dominico, about nine leagues north of Martinico, and thence ſailed to Antigua, where he continued till the 9th of November; when he returned to Martinico, and ſo cloſely blocked up that iſland, that the inhabitants were reduced to the greateſt diſtreſs for the want of proviſions.

A fleet of men of war, under the command of Admiral Martin, cruiſed in the Bay of Biſcay, to watch the motions of the French fleet in the harbour of Breſt. Rear-admiral Medley ſailed from Spithead with ſeven men of war, having the outward bound Eaſt-Indiamen and a great number of merchantmen under his convoy to a certain latitude; he was then to proceed to the Mediterranean to re-enforce Admiral Rowley who had ſucceeded Matthews. A violent ſtorm overtook this large fleet on the 26th of February in Torbay, did conſiderable damage to many of the merchantmen, and obliged them to put back to refit; the admiral arrived with his men of war at Minorca on the 10th of April. Soon after the commander in chief proceeded to ſea with twenty-four ſail of the line; and, ſteering for Carthagena, there blocked up the Spaniſh fleet, by which great advantages were derived to the allies: for the Spaniards were prevented from tranſporting troops from Italy, or joining the French fleet. The republic of Genoa having openly declared for the French and Spaniards, and joined their army with a large body of troops, the Engliſh admiral detached a part of his fleet, under the command of Commodore Cooper, which ſeized and confiſcated all the Genoeſe ſhips that came in their way; he alſo bombarded ſeveral of their towns ſituated on the coaſt, particularly St. Remo, which was laid in ruins. The commodore then proceeded to Baſtia,

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the capital of Corſica, where a conſiderable body of malcontents were in arms, under the Marquis of Rivola. The Engliſh fleet cannonaded and bombarded the city and caſtle with great fury, ſo that at length the Marquis de Mari, who commanded in the place, and had a garriſon of ſix hundred men, was obliged to abandon the caſtle, and retire to Calvi, whither he expected to be followed by the exaſperated Corſicans, who before the cloſe of the year obliged the Genoeſe to ſurrender the caſtle of San Florenzo and the tower of Mortella.

The Engliſh cruiſers and privateers in the year 1745, were very ſucceſsful. Beſides the valuable prizes already ſpoken of, Captain Ambroſe of the Rupert, in company with the Guernſey, Captain Corniſh, in their way from Gibraltar to Liſbon, on the 19th of January, fell in with a Spaniſh regiſter ſhip, called the Maria Fortuna, of three hundred and fifty tons, ſixteen guns, and ſixty-four men and paſſengers, among whom was the governor of Paraguay. She was bound from Cadiz to Buenos Ayres, and had been only two days at ſea, and was under convoy of ſix French men of war, commanded by M. de Caylus; but when taken was ſeparated from them by the hazineſs of the weather. Her cargo coſt above one hundred thouſand pounds at Cadiz. A French ſhip of three hundred and twenty tons, twenty-four guns, and one hundred and twenty men, bound from the Havannah to Cadiz, having ſixty thouſand pieces of eight, ſome cheſts of gold-duſt, and other rich merchandize, on-board, was taken by the Flamborough man of war; which alſo took a Spaniſh regiſter ſhip worth fifty thouſand pounds. The Conception, a French ſhip of four hundred tons, twenty guns, and three hundred and twenty-ſix men, bound from Carthagena to the Havannah, on-board of which were eight hundred ſerons of cacao, and in each a bar of gold, ſixty-eight cheſts of ſilver coin, containing three hundred

hundred and ten thouſand pieces of eight, wrought plate of an equal value, a complete ſet of church plate, a large quantity of gold buckles and ſnuff-boxes, a curious two-wheeled chaiſe of ſilver, the wheels, axle-tree, and other parts, of the ſame metal, a large quantity of pearls, diamonds, and other precious ſtones, and above ſix hundred pounds weight of gold, the whole valued at two hundred thouſand pounds, was taken by the Roſe man of war.

Having now gone over the naval tranſactions of the year 1745, it will be neceſſary to ſpeak of an event that ſhook Great Britain to its centre. The ſtate of the nation at this time was ſuch, as encouraged the court of France to attempt the creating domeſtic commotions by means of the exciled deſcendants of the Stuart line. King George was in Germany, not more than eight thouſand troops were at that time at home; Scotland was left without defence. Prince Charles-Edward, eldeſt ſon of him whom they ſtiled the pretender, or the Chevalier St. George, encouraged by the advice and aſſurances of Cardinal Tencin, reſolved upon the deſperate meaſure of paſſing over into Scotland, there publicly to lay claim to the Britiſh crown. It had been the wiſh of the abdicated monarch James II. to return to England even without attendants; thereby hoping to excite general compaſſion among thoſe whom he could not ſubject by authority. His ſon adopted a ſimilar ſentiment, and would willingly have landed in Scotland with not more than a dozen followers in the year 1708. Charles-Edward Stuart poſſeſſed the ſame enterpriſing ſpirit. The malcontents in England had aſſured him of the general diſcontent which prevailed in the kingdom, and that numbers would flock to his ſtandard as ſoon as it ſhould be erected on Britiſh ground; and that great part of the Highlanders were keen for inſurrection. Their natural principles were on this occaſion ſtimulated

ed by the ſuggeſtions of revenge.—At the beginning of the war, a regiment of thoſe people had been formed, and tranſported with the reſt of the Britiſh troops to Flanders. Before they were embarked, a number of them deſerted with their arms, declaring that they had been decoyed into the ſervice, by promiſes and aſſurances that they ſhould never be ſent abroad; and this was really the caſe. They were overtaken by a body of horſe, perſuaded to ſubmit, and brought back to London, pinioned like malefactors, and tried for deſertion. Three were ſhot, and the reſt were ſent in exile to the plantations. Thoſe who ſuffered were perſons of ſome conſequence in their own country; and their fate was deeply reſented by the clans to which they belonged. It was conſidered as a national outrage: and the Highlanders, who are naturally vindictive, waited impatiently for an opportunity of vengeance. The court of France alſo gave him poſitive aſſurances of effectual ſupport.

Notwithſtanding theſe aſſurances, nothing could be more plain than that inſurmountable obſtacles lay in the way of his ambition. The union which had made England and Scotland one kingdom, had now ſubſiſted long enough to prove the eſſential benefits derived to both countries, thereby commerce had ſpread her benign influence over each diviſion of the iſland. An extended empire, vaſt fleets, and thriving manufactures, were the conſequences of that accumulated ſtrength obtained by the union. The proſperous ſtate of Scotland, at this time, was ſufficient to ſilence ſuch cavillers, as even no proofs were ſtrong enough to ſatisfy. Beſides, near ſixty years had now elapſed ſince the Scotch had changed their hereditary ſovereign for an elective monarch; during that time their deteſtation of the tenets of popery had weakened their attachment to the houſe of Stuart. But the youthful Charles ſaw not the force of theſe alterations in the condition and temper of the kingdoms. His education

tion and purſuits had tended little to qualify him for the arduous enterprize in which he was about to embark. He is ſaid to have imparted his deſign to only ſeven officers, all of whom were natives either of Scotland or Ireland. Among theſe were the Marquis of Tullibardine, brother to the Duke of Athol; Sir Thomas Sheridan; Macdonald, appointed quarter-maſter to an army which was not then raiſed; and other needy and deſperate adventurers.

A merchant at Nantes, of Iriſh extraction, furniſhed him with a veſſel mounting eighteen guns, on-board of which he and his adherents embarked on the 23d of June, 1745. He had with him arms for about eighteen hundred men, and 2,000l. in money. He was joined off Belleiſle by a French man of war of ſixty-ſix guns, named the Elizabeth, which was deſigned to convoy him round Ireland, and land him in the weſtern part of Scotland. They had not been many days at ſea, when they fell in with an Engliſh man of war of fifty-eight guns; ſhe was called the Lion, and commanded by Captain Brett. The frigate made two attempts to rake the Lion, whilſt engaged with the Elizabeth, but was ſoon beat off by her ſtern chaſe guns; after which ſhe proceeded to her deſtination without meeting with any farther annoyance. Mean while, the two men of war continued an obſtinate fight from five o'clock in the afternoon until ten at night, at which time the Lion's rigging was cut to pieces, and all her maſts either ſhot away or greatly damaged, which gave the French ſhip an opportunity to ſheer off, and in leſs than an hour ſhe was out of ſight, but was ſo much damaged as to reach the harbour of Breſt with great difficulty. The Lion had forty-five of her men killed, and one hundred and ſeven wounded, ſeven of whom died ſoon after.

But to return to the adventurous Charles-Edward. He landed on the coaſt of Lochabar, on the 27th of July, and was, in a little time, joined by ſome chiefs

of the Highland clans, and their vaſſals. Theſe chiefs had, almoſt from time immemorial, exerciſed an hereditary juriſdiction over all their tenants. The power of life and death veſted in the lords of the fief or manor, by virtue of the old feudal conſtitution. The ſame kind of tenure, though ſtripped of ſome of its moſt offenſive appendages, had been introduced into England by William the Norman, and had ſubſiſted there, only undergoing many ſalutary innovations, until the reign of Charles II. when it was totally aboliſhed. But the ancient cuſtoms, which ferociouſneſs and barbariſm had introduced into Scotland, had been confirmed to the Scotch lairds at the time of the union. From hence, a chief had the power of commanding all his vaſſals, and immediate death was the conſequence of their diſobedience. By means of theſe chiefs, therefore, the young adventurer ſoon ſaw himſelf at the head of fifteen hundred men; and invited others to join him by his manifeſtoes, which were diſperſed throughout all the Highlands.

The regency was no ſooner confirmed of the truth of his arrival, which, at firſt, they could ſcarcely be induced to believe, than Sir John Cope was ordered to oppoſe his progreſs. In the mean time, the ſon of the pretender marched to Perth, where the unneceſſary ceremony was performed of proclaiming the Chevalier de St. George, his father, king of Great Britain; and the public money ſeized for his uſe: the ſame ſteps were taken at Dundee and other places. Prince Charles was joined by the noblemen who aſſumed the title of Duke of Perth, the Viſcount Strathallan, Lord Nairn, Lord George Murray, and many perſons of diſtinction, with their followers. The Marquis of Tullibardine, who had accompanied him from France, took poſſeſſion of Athol, as heir of blood to the titles and eſtate which his younger brother enjoyed in conſequence of his attainder; and met with ſome ſucceſs in arming the tenants, for the ſupport of that cauſe which he avowed.

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The rebel army being conſiderably augmented, though very ill provided with arms, croſſed the Forth in the neighbourhood of Sterling, and advanced towards Edinburgh, where they were joined by Lord Elcho, ſon of the Earl of Wemys, and other perſons of ſome diſtinction. On the 16th of September, 1745, Charles ſummoned the town to ſurrender. The inhabitants were divided by faction, and diſtracted by fear: the place was not in a poſture of defence, and the magiſtrates would not expoſe the people to the uncertain iſſue of an aſſault. Several deputations were ſent from the town to the pretender, in order to negociate terms of capitulation. In the mean time, one of the gates being opened for the admiſſion of a coach, Cameron of Lochiel, one of the moſt powerful of the Highland chiefs, ruſhed into the place with a party of his men, and ſecured it without oppoſition. Next morning the whole rebel army entered, and their prince took poſſeſſion of Holyrood houſe in the ſuburbs. Then he cauſed his father to be proclaimed at the market-croſs; there alſo the manifeſto was read, in which the Chevalier de St. George declared his ſon Charles regent of his dominions, promiſed to diſſolve the union, and redreſs the grievances of Scotland. His being in poſſeſſion of his capital encouraged his followers, and added reputation to his arms: but the treaſure belonging to the two banks of that kingdom had been previouſly conveyed into the caſtle, a ſtrong fortreſs, with a good garriſon, under the command of General Gueſt, an old officer of experience and capacity.

In the mean time, Sir John Cope, who had purſued them to the Highlands, but declined meeting them in their deſcent, being now reinforced by two regiments of dragoons, reſolved to march towards Edinburgh, and give them battle. The young adventurer, unwilling to give him time to retreat, attack-

ed him near Preſton-pans, about twelve miles from the capital, on the 21ſt of September. Two thouſand four hundred Highlanders half-armed, charged ſword in hand with ſuch impetuoſity, that in leſs than ten minutes after the battle began, the king's troops were broken and totally routed. The dragoons fled in the utmoſt confuſion at the firſt onſet; the general officers having made ſome unſucceſsful efforts to rally them, thought proper to conſult their own ſafety by an expeditious retreat towards Coldſtream on the Tweed. All the infantry were either killed or taken; and the colours, artillery, tents, baggage, and military cheſt, fell into the hands of the victor, who returned in triumph to Edinburgh. Never was victory more complete, or obtained at a ſmaller expence; for not above fifty of the rebels loſt their lives in the engagement. Five hundred of the king's troops were killed on the field of battle; and among theſe Colonel Gardiner, a gallant officer, who diſdained to ſave his life at the expence of his honour. When abandoned by his own regiment of dragoons, he alighted from his horſe, joined the infantry, and fought on foot, until he fell covered with wounds, in ſight of his own threſhold. Prince Charles bore his good fortune with moderation. He prohibited all rejoicings for the victory he had obtained: the wounded ſoldiers were treated with humanity; and the officers were ſent into Fife and Angus, where they were left at liberty on their parole; which the greater part of them ſhamefully broke in the ſequel. From this victory the pretender reaped manifold and important advantages. His followers were armed, his party encouraged, and his enemies intimidated. He was ſupplied with a train of artillery, and a conſiderable ſum of money, and ſaw himſelf poſſeſſed of all Scotland, except the fortreſſes, the reduction of which he could not pretend to undertake without proper implements and engineers.

Charles

Charles continued to reſide in the palace of Holy-rood-houſe; and took meaſures for cutting off the communication between the caſtle and the city. General Gueſt declared that he would demoliſh the city, unleſs the blockade ſhould be raiſed, ſo as that proviſion might be carried into caſtle. After having waited the return of an expreſs which he had found means to diſpatch to court, he began to put his threats in execution, by firing upon the town. Some houſes were beaten down, and ſeveral perſons killed even at the market-croſs. The citizens, alarmed at this diſaſter, ſent a deputation to the prince, entreating him to raiſe the blockade; and he complied with their requeſt. He levied a regiment in Edinburgh and the neighbourhood. He impoſed taxes; ſeized the merchandize that was depoſited in the king's warehouſes at Leith, and other places; and compelled the city of Glaſgow to accommodate him with a large ſum, to be repaid when the peace of the kingdom ſhould be re-eſtabliſhed. The numbers of his followers daily increaſed: and he received conſiderable ſupplies of money, artillery, and ammunition, by ſingle ſhips that arrived from France, where his intereſt ſeemed to riſe in proportion to the ſucceſs of his arms. The greater and richer part of Scotland was averſe to his family and pretenſions: but the people were unarmed and undiſciplined, conſequently paſſive under his dominion. By this time, however, the prince pretender was joined by the Earl of Kilmarnock, the Lords Elcho, Balmerino, Ogilvie, Pitſligo; and the eldeſt ſon of Lord Lovat had begun to aſſemble his father's clan, in order to reinforce the victor, whoſe army lay encamped at Doddingſton, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. Kilmarnock and Balmerino were men of broken and deſperate fortune: Elcho and Ogilvie were ſons to the Earls of Wemys and Airly; ſo that their influence was far from being extenſive. Pitſligo was a nobleman

nobleman of a very amiable character, as well as of great perſonal intereſt; and great dependence was placed upon the power and attachment of Lord Lovat, who had entered into private engagements with the Chevalier de St. George, though he ſtill wore the maſk of loyalty to the government, and diſavowed the conduct of his ſon when he declared for the pretender. This old nobleman is the ſame Simon Fraſer whom we have had occaſion to mention as a partiſan and emiſſary of the court of St. Germain's, in the year 1703. He had renounced his connexions with that family; and, in the rebellion immediately after the acceſſion of King George I. approved himſelf a warm friend to the proteſtant ſucceſſion. Since that period he had been induced by diſguſt and ambition, to change his principles again, and was, in ſecret, an enthuſiaſt in jacobitiſm. He had greatly augmented his eſtate, and obtained a conſiderable intereſt in the Highlands, where, however, he was rather dreaded than beloved. He was bold, enterpriſing, vain, arbitrary, rapacious, cruel, and deceitful: but his character was chiefly marked by a ſpecies of low cunning and diſſimulation, which, however, overſhot his purpoſe, and contributed to his own ruin.

While the young pretender endeavoured to improve the advantage he had gained, the miniſtry of Great Britain took every poſſible meaſure to retard his progreſs. Six thouſand Dutch troops that had come over to the aſſiſtance of the crown, were ſent northward, under the command of General Wade. Theſe troops had compoſed the garriſons of Tournay and Dendermond; and, when they capitulated, it was made an article of the convention, that they ſhould not ſerve againſt France during eighteen months from that time. Their marching to ſuppreſs an inſurrection of Scotch Highlanders was no infraction of the treaty. But Lord Drummond, brother to the Duke of Perth, an officer in the French ſervice, arriving at Montroſe with ſome piquets,

piquets, and three companies of the Scotch regiment, made a declaration, "that he came by order of the King of France, to ſuccour his ally the Prince of Wales, regent of Scotland, and to make war againſt the King of England, Elector of Hanover." The Hollanders, who by their capitulation could not ſerve againſt the French king, were hereupon obliged to remain neuter, and were therefore ſent back to Holland, and ſix thouſand Heſſians were brought over to ſupply their place. The Duke of Cumberland ſoon after arrived from Flanders, and was followed by another detachment of dragoons and infantry; volunteers in different parts of the kingdom employed themſelves in the exerciſe of arms; and every county exerted a generous ſpirit of indignation, both againſt the ambition, the religion, and the allies, of the young adventurer.

Notwithſtanding theſe preparations to cruſh him, Charles went forward with vigour, and reſolved to make an eruption into England, which he entered by the weſt. On the 6th of November, Carliſle was inveſted, and, in leſs than three days, it ſurrendered: the keys were delivered to him at Brampton, by the mayor and aldermen on their knees. Here he found a conſiderable quantity of arms: his father was proclaimed King of Great Britain, and himſelf regent, by the magiſtrates in their formalities. General Wade, being appriſed of his progreſs, decamped from Newcaſtle, and advanced acroſs the country as far as Hexham, though the fields were covered with ſnow, and the roads almoſt impaſſable. There he received intelligence that Carliſle was reduced, and forthwith returned to his former ſtation. In the mean time orders were iſſued for aſſembling another army in Staffordſhire, under the command of Sir John Ligonier. Prince Charles, notwithſtanding this formidable oppoſition, determined to proceed. He had received aſſurances from France, that a conſiderable body of troops would be landed on the ſouthern coaſt of Britain, to make a diverſion in his

his favour; and he never doubted but that he ſhould be joined by all the Engliſh malcontents, as ſoon as he could penetrate into the heart of the kingdom. Leaving a ſmall garriſon in the caſtle of Carliſle, he advanced to Penrith, marching on foot in the Highland garb, at the head of his forces; and continued his route through Lancaſter and Preſton to Manchester, where, on the 29th of the month, he eſtabliſhed his head quarters. There he was joined by about two hundred Engliſhmen, who were formed into a regiment, under the command of Colonel Townley. The inhabitants ſeemed to receive him with marks of affection; and his arrival was celebrated by illuminations, and other public rejoicings. His ſuppoſed intention was to proſecute his march by the way of Cheſter into Wales, where he hoped to find a great number of adherents: but all the bridges over the river Merſey being broken down, he choſe the route to Stockport, and forded the river at the head of his diviſion, though the water roſe to his middle. He paſſed through Macclesfield and Congleton; and on the 4th of December entered the town of Derby, in which his army was quartered, and his father proclaimed with great formality. He had now advanced within 126 miles of the capital, which was filled with terror and confuſion. Wade lingered in Yorkſhire: the Duke of Cumberland had aſſumed the command of the other army aſſembled in the neighbourhood of Lichfield. He had marched from Stafford to Stone; ſo that the rebels, in turning off from Aſhborne to Derby, had gained a march between him and London. Had Charles proceeded in his career with that expedition which he had hitherto uſed, he might perhaps, have made himſelf maſter of the metropolis, where he would have been certainly joined by a conſiderable number of his well-wiſhers, who waited impatiently for his approach: yet this exploit could not have been atchieved without hazarding an engagement,

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and running the riſque of being encloſed within three armies, each greatly ſuperior to his own in number and artillery. Orders were given for forming a camp on Finchley-common, where the king reſolved to take the field in perſon, accompanied by the Earl of Stair; the militia of London and Middleſex were kept in readineſs to march: double watches were poſted at the city-gates, and ſignals of alarm appointed. The volunteers of the city were incorporated into a regiment: the practitioners of the law headed by the judges, the weavers of Spital-fields, and other communities, engaged in aſſociations; and even the managers of the theatres offered to raiſe a body of their dependents for the ſervice of the government. Notwithſtanding theſe precautions and appearances of unanimity, the trading part of the city, and thoſe concerned in the money-corporations, were overwhelmed with fear and dejection. They repoſed very little confidence in the courage or diſcipline of their militia and volunteers: they had received intelligence that the French were employed in making preparations at Dunkirk and Calais for a deſcent upon England: they dreaded an inſurrection of the Roman Catholics, and other friends of the houſe of Stuart; and they reflected that the Highlanders, of whom by this time they had conceived a moſt terrible idea, were within four days march of the capital. Alarmed by theſe conſiderations, they prognoſticated their own ruin in the approaching revolution; and their countenances exhibited the plaineſt marks of horror and deſpair. On the other hand, the jacobites were elevated to an inſolence of hope, which they were at no pains to conceal; while many people, who had no private property to loſe, and thought no change for the worſe, waited the iſſue of this criſis with the moſt calm indifference.

This ſtate of ſuſpence was of ſhort duration. The young pretender found himſelf miſerably diſappointed

in his expectations; he had now advanced into the middle of the kingdom, and, except a few that joined him at Manchester, not a soul appeared in his behalf: one would have imagined that all the jacobites of England had been annihilated. The Welch took no step to excite an insurrection in his favour: the French made no attempt towards an invasion: his court was divided into factions: the Highland chiefs began to murmur, and their clans to be unruly: he saw himself with a handful of men hemmed in between two considerable armies, in the middle of winter, and in a country disaffected to his cause. He knew he could not proceed to the metropolis without hazarding a battle, and that a defeat would be attended with the inevitable destruction of himself and all his adherents; and he had received information that his friends and officers had assembled a body of forces in the north, superior in number to those by whom he was attended. He called a council at Derby; and proposed to advance towards London: the proposal was supported by Lord Nairn with great vehemence; but, after violent disputes, the majority determined that they should retreat to Scotland with all possible expedition. Accordingly, they abandoned Derby on the 6th of December, early in the morning, and measured back the route by which they had advanced. On the 9th their vanguard arrived at Manchester: on the 12th they entered Preston, and continued their march northwards. The Duke of Cumberland, who was encamped at Meriden, when first apprised of their retreat, detached the horse and dragoons in pursuit of them; while General Wade began his march from Ferrybridge into Lancashire, with a view of intercepting them in their route: but at Wakefield he understood that they had already reached Wigan: he, therefore, repaired to his old post at Newcastle, after having detached General Oglethorpe, with his horse and dragoons, to join those who had been sent off

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from the duke's army. They purſued with ſuch alacrity, that they overtook the rear of the rebels, with which they ſkirmiſhed, in Lancaſhire. The militia of Cumberland and Weſtmoreland were raiſed and armed by the duke's order, to harraſs them in their march. The bridges were broken down, the roads damaged, and the beacons lighted to alarm the country. Nevertheleſs, they retreated regularly with their ſmall train of artillery. They were overtaken at the village of Clifton, in the neighbourhood of Penrith, by two regiments of dragoons. They alighted, and lined the hedges, in order to harraſs part of the enemy's rear-guard, commanded by Lord John Murray; who, at the head of the Macphersons, attacked the dragoons ſword in hand, and repulſed them with ſome loſs. On the 19th of the month, the Highland army reached Carliſle, where the majority of the Engliſh in the ſervice of the pretender were left at their own deſire. Charles, having reinforced the garriſon of the place, croſſed the rivers Eden and Solway into Scotland, having thus accompliſhed one of the moſt ſurpriſing retreats that ever was performed. But the moſt remarkable circumſtance of this expedition, was the moderation and regularity with which thoſe ferocious people conducted themſelves in a country abounding with plunder. No violence was offered; no outrage committed; and they were effectually reſtrained from the exerciſe of rapine. Notwithſtanding the exceſſive cold, the hunger, and the fatigue to which they muſt have been expoſed, they left behind no ſick, and loſt a very few ſtragglers; but retired with deliberation, and carried off their cannon in the face of their enemy. The Duke of Cumberland inveſted Carliſle with his whole army on the 21ſt of December, and on the 30th the garriſon ſurrendered on a ſort of capitulation made with the Duke of Richmond. The priſoners, amounting to about four hundred, were impriſoned in dif-

ferent gaols in England, and the duke returned to London.

The pretender proceeded by the way of Dumfries to Glasgow, from which last city he exacted severe contributions, on account of its attachment to the government, for whose service it had raised a regiment of nine hundred men, under the command of the Earl of Home. Having continued several days at Glasgow, he advanced towards Stirling, and was joined by some forces which had been assembled in his absence by Lords Lewis Gordon and John Drummond, brothers to the Dukes of Gordon and Perth. Prince Charles now invested the castle of Stirling, in which General Blakeney commanded: but his people were so little used to enterprises of this kind, that they made very little progress in their operations.

By this time, a considerable body of forces was assembled at Edinburgh, under the conduct of General Hawley, who determined to relieve Stirling-castle, and advanced to Linlithgow on the 13th of January, 1746; next day his whole army rendezvoused at Falkirk, while the rebels were cantoned about Bannockburn. On the 17th of the month, they began their march in two columns to attack the king's forces, and had forded the water of Carven, within three miles of Hawley's camp, before he discovered their intention. Such was his obstinacy, self-conceit, or contempt of the enemy, that he slighted the repeated intelligence he had received of their motions and design, firmly believing they durst not hazard an engagement. At length, perceiving they had occupied the rising ground to the southward of Falkirk, he ordered his cavalry to advance, and drive them from the eminence; while his infantry formed, and were drawn up in order of battle. The Highlanders kept up their fire, and took aim so well, that the assailants were broke by the first volley: they retreated with precipitation, and fell in amongst the infantry, which

which were likewiſe diſcompoſed by the wind and rain beating with great violence in their faces, wetting their powder, and diſturbing their eye-ſight. Some of the dragoons rallied, and advanced again to the charge, with part of the infantry which had not been engaged: then the pretender marched up at the head of his corps de reſerve, conſiſting of the regiment of Lord John Drummond, and the Iriſh piquets. Theſe reinforcing the Camerons and the Stuarts in the front line, immediately obliged the dragoons to give way a ſecond time; and they again diſordered the foot in their retreat. They ſet fire to their camp, and abandoned Falkirk with their baggage and train, which laſt had never reached the field of battle. The rebels followed their firſt blow, and great part of the royal army, after one irregular diſcharge, turned their backs, and fled in the utmoſt conſternation. In all probality few or none of them would have eſcaped, had not General Huſke, and Brigadier Cholmondeley, rallied part of ſome regiments, and made a gallant ſtand, which favoured the retreat of the reſt to Falkirk, from whence they retired in confuſion to Edinburgh, leaving the field of battle, with part of their tents and artillery, to the rebels: but their loſs of men did not exceed three hundred, including Sir Robert Monro, Colonel Whitney, and ſome other officers of diſtinction. It was at this period, that the officers who had been taken at the battle of Preſton Pans, and conveyed to Angus and Fife, finding themſelves unguarded, broke their parole, and returned to Edinburgh, on pretence of their having been *forcibly releaſed* by the inhabitants of thoſe parts.

General Hawley, who had boaſted that, with two regiments of dragoons, he would drive the rebel army from one end of the kingdom to the other, incurred abundance of cenſure for the diſpoſition he made, as well as for his conduct before and after the action; but he found means to vindicate himſelf to the

the satisfaction of his sovereign. Nevertheless, it was judged necessary that the army in Scotland should be commanded by a general in whom the soldiers might have some confidence; and the Duke of Cumberland was chosen for this purpose. Over and above his being beloved by the army, it was suggested, that the appearance of a prince of the blood in Scotland might have a favourable effect upon the minds of the people in that kingdom; he, therefore, began his northern expedition, and headed the troops in Edinburgh, consisting of fourteen battalions of infantry, two regiments of dragoons, and twelve hundred Highlanders from Argyleshire, under the command of Colonel Campbell.

On the 31st of January, his royal highness began his march to Linlithgow; and the enemy, who had renewed the siege of Stirling-castle, not only abandoned that enterprize, but crossed the river Forth with precipitation. The Duke of Cumberland, having secured the important posts of Stirling and Perth, with the Hessian battalions, advanced with the army to Aberdeen, where he was joined by the Duke of Gordon, the Earls of Aberdeen and Findlater, the Laird of Grant, and other persons of distinction: here he remained some time to refresh his troops.

In the beginning of April, the Duke of Cumberland began his march from Aberdeen, and on the 12th passed the deep and rapid river Spey, without opposition from the rebels, though a detachment of them appeared on the opposite side. His royal highness proceeded to Nairn, where he received intelligence, that the enemy had advanced from Inverness to Culloden, about the distance of nine miles from the royal army, with intention to give him battle. The design of Charles was to march in the night from Culloden, and surprize the duke's army at day-break: for this purpose the English camp had been reconnoitred; and on the night of the 15th the Highland army

army began to march in two columns. Their design was to surround the enemy, and attack them at once on all quarters: but the length of the columns embarrassed the march, so that the army was obliged to make many halts: the men had been under arms during the whole preceding night, were faint with fatigue, and many of them overpowered with sleep. Some were unable to proceed; others dropped off unperceived in the dark; and the march was retarded in such a manner, that it would have been impossible to reach the duke's camp before sun-rise. The design being thus frustrated, the prince-pretender was with great reluctance prevailed upon by his general officers to measure back his way to Culloden; at which place he had no sooner arrived, than great numbers of his followers dispersed in quest of provision; and many, overcome with weariness and sleep, threw themselves down on the heath, and along the park walls. Their repose, however, was soon interrupted in a very disagreeable manner. Their prince, receiving information that his enemies were in full march to attack him, resolved to hazard an engagement, and ordered his troops to be formed for that purpose.

On the 16th of April, 1746, the royal army, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, began their march from Nairn, formed into five lines of three battalions each; headed by Major-general Huske on the left, Lord Sempill on the right, and Brigadier Mordaunt in the centre; flanked by the horse under the Generals Hawley and Bland, who at the same time covered the cannon on the right and left. In this order they marched about eight miles, when a detachment of Kingston's horse, and of the Highlanders, having advanced before the rest of the army, discovered the van of the rebels commanded by the young pretender, at a place called Culloden, about two miles from Inverness. Both armies immediately prepared for battle. The numbers were nearly equal, the duke's

duke's army consisting of 8811 men, the rebel army, including French, of 8350.

About two in the afternoon the rebels began to cannonade the king's army; but their artillery, being ill served, did little execution; while the fire from their enemies was severely felt, and occasioned great disorder. The rebels then made a push at the right of the royal army, in order to draw the troops forward; but, finding themselves disappointed, they turned their whole force on the left; falling chiefly on Barrell's and Monro's regiments, where they attempted to flank the king's front line. But this design also was defeated by the advancing of Wolfe's regiment, while in the mean time the cannon kept playing upon them with cartridge shot. General Hawley, with some Highlanders, had opened a passage through some stone walls to the right for the horse which advanced on that side; while the horse on the king's right wheeled off upon their left, dispersed their body of reserve, and met in the centre of their front line in their rear; when being repulsed in the front, and great numbers of them cut off, the rebels fell into very great confusion. A dreadful carnage was made by the cavalry on their backs; however, some part of the foot still preserved their order: but Kingston's horse, from the reserve, galloped up briskly, and, falling on the fugitives, did terrible execution. The French piquets on their left, covered the retreat of the Highlanders by a close and regular fire; and then retired to Inverness, where they surrendered themselves prisoners of war. An entire body of the rebels marched off the field with their pipes playing, and the pretender's standard displayed; the rest were routed with great slaughter; and their prince was, with reluctance, prevailed upon to retire. In less than thirty minutes a total defeat took place, with the loss of 2500 killed, wounded, and prisoners, on the part of the rebels, while the royalists lost not above 200. It has been said, that the duke refused quarter in this battle; certain it is, that many

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of the rebels, anticipating their fate if taken prisoners, would not accept of quarter; such was the behaviour of one of the Highland chiefs represented in the annexed plate, with his broken broadsword uplifted in his hand.

The vanquished adventurer rode off the field, accompanied by the Duke of Perth, Lord Elcho, and a few horsemen; he crossed the water of Nairn, and retired to the house of a gentleman in Strutharrick, where he conferred with old Lord Lovat; then he dismissed his followers, and wandered about a wretched and solitary fugitive, among the isles and mountains for the space of five months, during which he underwent such a series of dangers, hardships, and misery, as no other person ever out-lived. Thus, in one short hour, all his hope vanished, and the rebellion was entirely extinguished. One would almost imagine, the conductors of this desperate enterprize had conspired their own destruction, as they certainly neglected every step that might have contributed to their safety or success. They might have opposed the Duke of Cumberland at the passage of the Spey; they might, by proper conduct, have afterwards attacked his camp in the night, with a good prospect of success. As they were weakened with hunger and fatigue, they might have retired to the hills and fastnesses, where they would have found plenty of live cattle for provision, recruited their regiments, and been joined by a strong reinforcement, which was actually in full march to their assistance. But they were distracted by dissentions and jealousies; they obeyed the dictates of despair, and wilfully devoted themselves to ruin and death. When the news of the battle arrived in England, the nation was transported with joy, and extolled the Duke of Cumberland as a hero and deliverer. Both houses of parliament congratulated his majesty on the auspicious event. They decreed, in the most solemn manner, their public

thanks to his royal highneſs, which were tranſmitted to him by the ſpeakers; and the commons, by bill, added 25,000l. per annum to his former revenue.

Immediately after the deciſive action at Culloden, the duke took poſſeſſion of Inverneſs, where ſix-and-thirty deſerters, convicted by a court-martial, were ordered to be executed: then he detached ſeveral parties to ravage the country. One of theſe apprehended the Lady Mackintoſh, who was ſent priſoner to Inverneſs. They did not plunder her houſe, but drove away her cattle, though her huſband was actually in the ſervice of government. The caſtle of Lord Lovat was deſtroyed. The French priſoners were ſent to Carliſle and Penrith: Kilmarnock, Balmerino, Cromartie, and his ſon the Lord Macleod, were conveyed by ſea to London; and thoſe of an inferior rank were confined in different priſons. The Marquis of Tullibardine, together with a brother of the Earl of Dunmore, were ſeized, and tranſported to the Tower of London, to which the Earl of Traquaire had been committed on ſuſpicion. In a few months after the battle of Culloden, Murray, the pretender's ſecretary, was apprehended; and the eldeſt ſon of Lord Lovat, having ſurrendered himſelf, was impriſoned in the caſtle of Edinburgh. In a word, all the gaols of Great Britain, from the capital northwards, were filled with thoſe unfortunate captives; and great numbers of them were crouded together in the holds of ſhips, where they periſhed in the moſt deplorable manner, for want of neceſſaries, air, and exerciſe. Some rebel chiefs eſcaped in two French frigates, which had arrived on the coaſt of Lochaber about the end of April, and engaged three veſſels belonging to his Britannic majeſty, which they obliged to retire. Others embarked on board of a ſhip on the coaſt of Buchan; and were conveyed to Norway, from thence the travelled to Sweden. In the month of May, the Duke of Cumberland advanced with the army into

into the Highlands, as far as Fort Auguſtus, where he encamped; and ſent off detachments on all hands, to hunt down the fugitives, and lay waſte the country with fire and ſword. The caſtles of Glengary and Lochiel were plundered and burned: every houſe, hut, or habitation, met with the ſame fate, without diſtinction: all the cattle and proviſion were carried off: the men were either ſhot upon the mountains, like wild beaſts, or put to death in cold blood, without form of trial: the women, after having ſeen their huſbands and fathers murdered, were ſubjected to brutal violation, and then turned out naked, with their children, to ſtarve on the barren heaths. One whole family was encloſed in a barn, and conſumed to aſhes. Thoſe miniſters of vengeance were ſo alert in the execution of their office, that in a few days there was neither houſe, cottage, man, nor beaſt, to be ſeen in the compaſs of fifty miles: all was ruin, ſilence, and deſolation.

The humane reader cannot reflect upon ſuch a ſcene without grief and horror: what then muſt have been the ſenſation of the fugitive prince, when he beheld theſe ſpectacles of woe, the diſmal fruit of his ambition? He was now ſurrounded by armed troops, that chaſed him from hill to dale, from rock to cavern, and from ſhore to ſhore. Sometimes he lurked in caves and cottages, without attendants, or any other ſupport but that which the pooreſt peaſant could ſupply. Sometimes he was rowed in fiſher-boats from iſle to iſle, among the Hebrides, and often in ſight of his purſuers. For ſome days he appeared in woman's attire, and even paſſed through the midſt of his enemies unknown. But, underſtanding his diſguiſe was diſcovered, he aſſumed the habit of a travelling mountaineer, and wandered about among the woods and heaths, with a matted beard and ſqualid looks, expoſed to hunger, thirſt, and wearineſs, and in continual danger of being apprehended. He was obliged to

truſt his life to the fidelity of above fifty individuals, and many of theſe were in the loweſt paths of fortune. They knew that a price of 30,000l. was ſet upon his head; and that, by betraying him, they ſhould enjoy wealth and affluence: but they deteſted the thought of obtaining riches on ſuch infamous terms, and miniſtered to his neceſſities, with the utmoſt zeal and fidelity, even at the hazard of their own deſtruction. In the courſe of theſe peregrinations, he was more than once hemmed in by his purſuers, in ſuch a manner as ſeemed to preclude all poſſibility of eſcaping: yet, he was never abandoned by his hope and recollection: he ſtill found ſome expedient that ſaved him from captivity and death; and through the whole courſe of his diſtreſſes maintained the moſt amazing equanimity and good humour. At length a privateer of St. Malo, hired by the young Sheridan and ſome other Iriſh adherents, arrived in Lochnannach; and on the 20th of September, this unfortunate prince embarked in the habit which he wore for diſguiſe. His eye was hollow, his viſage wan, and his conſtitution greatly impaired by famine and fatigue. He was accompanied by Cameron of Lochiel, and his brother, with a few other exiles. They ſet ſail for France, and after having paſſed unſeen, by means of a thick fog, through a Britiſh ſquadron commanded by Admiral Leſtock, and been chaſed by two Engliſh ſhips of war, arrived in ſafety at Roſcau, near Morlaix, in Bretaigne. Perhaps he would have found it ſtill more difficult to eſcape, had not the vigilance and eagerneſs of the government been relaxed, in conſequence of a report, that he had already fallen among ſome perſons that were ſlain by a volley from one of the duke's detachments.

The rebellion being quelled, the legiſlature reſolved to make examples of thoſe who had been concerned in diſturbing the peace of their country. In June, an act of attainder was paſſed againſt the principal perſons who

who had embarked in that desperate undertaking; and courts were opened in different parts of England, for the trial of the prisoners. Seventeen persons who had borne arms in the rebel army were executed at Kennington Common in the neighbourhood of London, and suffered with great constancy under the dreadful tortures which their sentence prescribed: nine were put to death, in the same manner, at Carlisle; six at Brumpton, seven at Penrith, and eleven at York: of these a considerable number were gentlemen, and had acted as officers; about fifty had been executed as deserters in different parts of Scotland: eighty-one suffered the pains of the law as traitors. A few obtained pardons, and a considerable number were transported to the plantations. Bills of indictment for high-treason were found by the county of Surry against the Earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie, and Lord Balmerino. These noblemen were tried by their peers in Westminster-hall, the lord chancellor presiding as lord high steward for the occasion. The two earls confessed their crimes, and in pathetic speeches recommended themselves to his majesty's mercy. Lord Balmerino pleaded not guilty: he denied his having been at Carlisle at the time specified in the indictment, but this exception was overruled: then he moved a point of law in arrest of judgment, and was allowed to be heard by his counsel. They might have expatiated on the hardships of being tried by an *ex post facto* law, and claimed the privilege of trial in the country where the act of treason was said to have been committed. But Balmerino waved this plea, and submitted to the court, which pronounced sentence of death upon him and his two associates. Cromartie's life was spared; but the other two were beheaded, in the month of August, on Tower-hill. Kilmarnock was a nobleman of fine personal accomplishments; he had been educated in revolution principles, and engaged in the rebellion, partly

partly from the desperate situation of his fortune, and partly from resentment to the government, on his being deprived of a pension which he had for some time enjoyed. He was convinced of his having acted criminally, and died with marks of penitence and contrition. Balmerino had been bred to arms, and acted upon principle: he was gallant, brave, rough, and resolute; he eyed the implements of death with the most careless familiarity, and seemed to triumph in his sufferings. In November, Mr. Ratcliff, the titular Earl of Derwentwater, who had been taken in a ship bound to Scotland, was arraigned on a former sentence, passed against him in the year 1716: he refused to acknowledge the authority of the court, and pleaded that he was a subject of France, honoured with a commission in the service of his most christian majesty. The identity of his person being proved, a rule was made for his execution; and on the 8th of December he suffered decapitation, with the most perfect composure and serenity. Lord Lovat, now turned of fourscore, was impeached by the commons, and tried in Westminster-hall before the lord high steward. John Murray, secretary to the prince-pretender, and some of his own domestics, appearing against him, he was convicted of high-treason, and condemned. Notwithstanding his age, infirmities, and the recollection of his conscience, which was supposed to be not altogether void of offence, he died like an old Roman, exclaiming, *Dulce et decorum pro patria mori;* "It is pleasing and honourable to die for one's country." He surveyed the crowd with attention, examined the axe, jested with the executioner, and laid his head upon the block with the utmost indifference. From this last scene of his life one would have concluded, that he had approved himself a patriot from his youth, and never deviated from the paths of virtue.—Thus ended a rebellion, dictated by youth and presumption, and conducted without skill or ability. The family

of

of Stuart found fortune become more averſe at every new ſolicitation of her favours.

For the ſake of relating theſe important events in one connected ſeries, we have been obliged to depart from the order of time, and muſt therefore now go back to the proceedings of parliament, which met on the 17th of October, 1745, and for a conſiderable time were entirely taken up in quieting the inteſtine commotions of the kingdom. In the latter end of January, 1746, new convulſions aroſe in the miniſtry. The Earl of Granville had made an effort to retrieve his influence in the cabinet, and his ſovereign favoured his pretenſions. The Duke of Newcaſtle and Mr. Pelham, who knew his aſpiring ſpirit, and dreaded his ſuperior talents, refuſed to admit ſuch a colleague into the adminiſtration: they even reſolved to ſtrengthen their party, by introducing freſh auxiliaries into the offices of ſtate. Some of theſe were perſonally diſagreeable to his majeſty, who accordingly rejected the ſuit by which they were recommended. The two brothers with all their adherents, immediately reſigned their employments. The Earl of Granville was appointed ſecretary of ſtate, and reſumed the reins of adminiſtration; but finding himſelf unequal to the accumulated oppoſition that preponderated againſt him, foreſeeing he ſhould not be able to ſecure the ſupplies in parliament, and dreading the conſequences of that confuſion which his reſtoration had already produced, he, in three days, voluntarily quitted the helm; and his majeſty acquieſced in the meaſures propoſed by the oppoſite party. The ſeals were re-delivered to the Duke of Newcaſtle and the Earl of Harrington: Mr. Pelham and all the reſt who had reſigned, were re-inſtated in their reſpective employments; and offices were conferred on ſeveral individuals, who had never before been in the ſervice of government. Among theſe Mr. Pitt was appointed paymaſter of the forces. This

gentleman

gentleman had been originally designed for the army, and, for some time, bore a commission as cornet of horse; but fate reserved him for a more important station. In point of fortune he was barely qualified to be elected member of parliament, when he obtained a seat in the house of commons, where he soon outshone all his compatriots. The Duchess of Marlborough, who died about this time, bequeathed him 10,000l. professedly for the services he had rendered his country as a senator, during the ten years he had sat in the house. In the discussion of every national question that was agitated, he displayed a surprising extent of political knowledge, and irresistible energy of argument. His harangues abounded with majestic and forcible images. He was a perfect master of the passions of his audience, who were led captive by the fascinating power of his manly eloquence. All the thunder of Demosthenes burst forth from this consummate orator; and England, which had before given birth to many great and astonishing geniuses, in sciences, and in arts, now saw one with a capacity equally penetrating and dignified, appear to support its sinking state. But the surprising endowments both natural and acquired, which centred in Mr. Pitt, formed but a part of his character; his incorruptible integrity threw a lustre over his talents, and caused them to be exerted strenuously and uniformly in the interest of his country. His ambition was that of a great mind, freed from the dross of avarice, and superior to the blandishments of pleasure. With these qualities he had become great, although far removed from the sunshine of a court; and possessing these he was ever superior to the mean arts, which are generally called in aid to obtain and preserve the station of distinction.

These arrangements in the ministry being adjusted, the house of commons voted forty thousand seamen for the service of the year 1746, at four pounds per man

man per month; nearly the same number of land-forces, besides fifteen regiments raised by the nobility, on account of the rebellion, and about twelve thousand marines. They settled funds for the maintenance of the Dutch and Hessian troops that were in England, as well as for the subsidy to the landgrave. They granted 300,000l. to the King of Sardinia; 400,000l. to the Queen of Hungary; 310,000l. to defray the expence of eighteen thousand Hanoverians; about 33,000l. in subsidies to the Electors of Mentz and Cologne; and 500,000l. in a vote of credit and confidence to his majesty. The whole charge of the current year amounted to 7,250,000l. which was raised by the land and malt taxes, annuities on the additional duties imposed on glass and spirituous liquors, a lottery, a deduction from the sinking-fund, and exchequer bills, chargeable on the first aids that should be granted in the next session of parliament.

The flame of war on the continent did not expire at the election of an emperor, and the re-establishment of peace among the princes of the empire. On the contrary, it raged with double violence in consequence of these events; for the force that was before divided being now united in one body, exerted itself with great vigour and rapidity. The states-general were overwhelmed with consternation. Notwithstanding the pains they had taken to avoid a war, and the condescension with which they had soothed and supplicated the French monarch in repeated embassies and memorials, they saw themselves stripped of their barrier, and once more in danger of being overwhelmed by that ambitious nation. Brussels had been reduced during the winter; so that the enemy were in possession of all the Austrian Netherlands, except a few fortresses. Great part of the forces belonging to the republic were restricted from action by capitulations to which they had subscribed. The states were divided in their councils between the two factions

which had long ſubſiſted. They trembled at the proſpect of ſeeing Zealand invaded in the ſpring. The Orange party loudly called for an augmentation of their forces by ſea and land, that they might proſecute the war with vigour. The common people, fond of novelty, dazzled by the ſplendor of greatneſs, and fully perſuaded that nothing but a chief was wanting to their ſecurity, demanded the Prince of Orange as a ſtadtholder; and even mingled menaces with their demands. The oppoſition faction dreaded alike the power of a ſtadtholder, the neighbourhood of a French army, and the ſeditious diſpoſition of the populace. An ambaſſador was ſent to London with repreſentations of the imminent dangers which threatened the republic, and he was ordered to ſolicit in the moſt preſſing terms the aſſiſtance of his Britannic majeſty, that the allies might have a ſuperiority in the Netherlands by the beginning of the campaign. The king was very well diſpoſed to comply with their requeſt; but the rebellion in his kingdom, and the diſſentions in his cabinet, had retarded the ſupplies, and embarraſſed him ſo much, that he found it impoſſible to make thoſe early preparations that were neceſſary to check the career of the enemy.

The King of France, with his general, Count Saxe, took the field in the latter end of April, at the head of one hundred and twenty thouſand men, and advanced towards the allies, who, to the number of four-and-forty thouſand, were entrenched behind the Demer, under the conduct of the Auſtrian general Bathiani, who retired before them, and took poſt in the neighbourhood of Breda, the capital of Dutch Brabant. Saxe immediately inveſted Antwerp, which in a few days was ſurrendered. Then he appeared before the ſtrong town of Mons in Hainault, with an irreſiſtible train of artillery, an immenſe quantity of bombs and warlike implements. He carried on his approaches with ſuch unabating impetuoſity, that, notwithſtanding a very

a very vigorous defence, the garriſon was obliged to capitulate on the 27th of June, in about eight-and-twenty days after the place had been inveſted. Sieges were not now carried on by the tedious method of ſapping. The French king found it much more expeditious and effectual to bring into the field a prodigious train of battering cannon, and enormous mortars, that kept up ſuch a fire as no garriſon could ſuſtain, and diſcharged ſuch an inceſſant hail of bombs and bullets, as in a very little time reduced to ruins the place, with all its fortifications. St. Guiſlain and Charleroy met with the ſame fate of Mons and Antwerp; ſo that by the middle of July the French king was abſolute maſter of Flanders, Brabant, and Hainault.

Prince Charles of Lorraine had, by this time, aſſumed the command of the confederate army at Terheyde, which being reinforced by the Heſſian troops from Scotland, and a freſh body of Auſtrians under Count Palfi, amounted to eighty-ſeven thouſand men, including the Dutch forces commanded by the Prince of Waldeck. The generals, ſuppoſing the next ſtorm would fall upon Namur, marched towards that place, and took poſt in an advantageous ſituation on the 18th of July, in ſight of the French army, which was encamped at Gemblours; here they remained till the 8th of Auguſt, when a detachment of the enemy, commanded by Count Lowendahl, took poſſeſſion of Huy, where he found a large magazine belonging to the confederates; and their communication with Maeſtricht was cut off; Marſhal Saxe, on the other ſide, took his meaſures ſo well, that they were utterly deprived of all ſubſiſtence. Then Prince Charles, retiring acroſs the Maeſe, abandoned Namur to the efforts of the enemy, by whom it was immediately inveſted. The trenches were opened on the 2d of September, and the garriſon, conſiſting of ſeven thouand Auſtrians, defended themſelves with equal ſkill

and reſolution: but the cannonading and bombardment were ſo terrible, that in a few days, the place was converted into a heap of rubbiſh; and on the 23d of the month the French monarch took poſſeſſion of this ſtrong fortreſs, which had formerly ſuſtained ſuch dreadful attacks. Meanwhile the allied army encamped at Maeſtricht were joined by Sir John Ligonier, with ſome Britiſh and Bavarian battalions; and Prince Charles reſolved to give the enemy battle. With this view he paſſed the Maeſe on the 13th of September, and advanced towards Marſhal Saxe, whom he found ſo advantageouſly poſted at Tongres, that he thought proper to march back to Maeſtricht. On the 26th of September he croſſed the Jaar in his retreat; and his rear was attacked by the enemy, who were repulſed. But Count Saxe being reinforced by a body of troops, under the Count de Clermont, determined to bring the confederates to an engagement. On the 13th of the month he paſſed the Jaar; while they took poſſeſſion of the villages of Liers, Warem, and Rocroux, drew up their forces in order of battle, and made preparations for giving him a warm reception. On the 1ſt of October the enemy advanced in three columns; and a terrible cannonading began about noon. At two o'clock Prince Waldeck on the left was charged with great fury; and after an obſtinate defence overpowered by numbers. The villages were attacked in columns, and as one brigade was repulſed another ſucceeded; ſo that the allies were obliged to abandon theſe poſts, and retreat towards Maeſtricht, with the loſs of five thouſand men and thirty pieces of artillery. The victory, however, coſt the French general a much greater number of lives; and was attended with no ſolid advantage. This action terminated the campaign. The allies paſſing the Maeſe, took up their winter quarters in the duchies of Limburg and Luxembourgh; while the French cantoned their troops in the places which they had newly conquered.

The

The campaign in Italy was altogether unfavourable to the French and Spaniards. The houſe of Auſtria being no longer preſſed on the ſide of Germany, was enabled to make the ſtronger efforts in this country; and the Britiſh ſubſidy encouraged the King of Sardinia to act with redoubled vivacity. Thus Italy, that once gave laws to the world, now ſaw the troops of Germany and Spain, by turns, enter into her territories; and, after various combats, ſhe, at laſt, ſaw the imperialiſts become maſters. The Spaniards and French loſt the moſt flouriſhing armies, notwithſtanding the excellent conduct of the Prince of Conti their general; and, at laſt, after a bloody victory obtained over the Spaniards at St. Lazaro, the beautiful city of Genoa, which had ſided with Spain, was obliged to ſubmit to the conquerors, to ſuffer all the indignities impoſed upon them, and to pay a moſt ſevere contribution. The city of Genoa had, for ages before, maintained its own laws, and boaſted of liberty. Beſides its inner wall, it had another formed by a chain of rocks of more than two leagues extent; but both being built in thoſe times when modern fortification was yet unknown, it was not thought, by its ſenate, capable of making a proper reſiſtance. Upon ſubmitting, the unhappy Italians too ſoon found that no mercy was to be expected from the court of Vienna, which had ever patronized oppreſſion. More than a million ſterling was demanded for a contribution; a tax, the payment of which muſt have utterly ruined the city. The magiſtrates did all in their power to pay the exorbitant ſum demanded; and the German troops exerciſed every inhumanity in exacting it. The conquerors lived upon the people, and treated them with an inſolence which was natural to them as conquerors, and as Germans. This republic little thought at the beginning of the war for the ſucceſſion of the houſe of Auſtria, that ſhe ſhould be made the victim of it; but, when the principal powers in Europe take arms,

arms, there is no little ſtate that ought not to tremble. The Genoeſe were, at length, reduced to deſpair, and were reſolved to make a laſt effort for the recovery of their liberty and independance. The Auſtrians took the cannon of the city, in order to tranſport them to Provence, where their arms had already penetrated. The Genoeſe themſelves were obliged to draw thoſe cannon, which they had once conſidered as the defence and ornament of their citadel. It was on this occaſion that an Auſtrian officer ſtruck one of the citizens, who had been employed in this laborious taſk. This blow ſerved to animate the people with their former ſpirit of freedom. They took up arms in every quarter of the town, and ſurprized ſome battalions of the Auſtrians, ſurrounded others, and cut them in pieces. The ſenate, uncertain how to proceed, neither encouraged nor ſtopped the citizens, who drove the Auſtrians entirely out, and then appointed commanders, and guarded the walls with the utmoſt regularity.

The reduction of Cape-Breton had encouraged the miniſtry to project this year the conqueſt of Quebec. Commiſſions were ſent to the governors of the Britiſh colonies in North America, empowering them to raiſe companies to join the armament from England; and eight thouſand troops were actually raiſed in conſequence of theſe directions; while a powerful ſquadron and tranſports, having ſix regiments on-board, were prepared at Portſmouth for this expedition. But their departure was poſtponed by unaccountable delays, until the ſeaſon was judged too far advanced to riſque the great ſhips on the boiſterous coaſt of North America. However, that the armament might not be wholly uſeleſs to the nation, it was employed in making a deſcent on the coaſt of Brittany, on the ſuppoſition that Port l'Orient, the repoſitory of all the ſtores and ſhips belonging to the French Eaſt-India company, might be ſurprized; or, that this invaſion

vaſion would alarm the enemy, and by making a diverſion, facilitate the operations of Count Brown, the Auſtrian general in Provence; as well as draw a conſiderable detachment from Marſhal Saxe's army in Flanders, which was ſuperior to that of the allies.

The naval force intended for this ſervice, conſiſted of ſixteen great ſhips, and eight frigates, beſides bomb-ketches and ſtore-ſhips, commanded by Richard Leſtock, appointed admiral of the blue diviſion. Six battalions of land-troops, with a detachment of matroſſes and bombardiers, were embarked in thirty tranſports, under the conduct of Lieutenant-general Sinclair. The whole fleet ſailed from Plymouth on the 14th of September, 1746: after a proſperous voyage, they found themſelves at eight in the evening, on the 18th of the ſame month, within four leagues of Port Louis, where they met with Commodore Cotes, who had ſounded the coaſt, and fixed on a proper place for landing, about ten miles from l'Orient. Port Louis is a maritime town, and conſiderable port of the ocean, ſituated upon the ſouthern coaſt of the province of Brittany, in 47 deg. 53 min. north latitude, and in 14 deg. 16 min. eaſt longitude, at the mouth of the river Blavet, which name it formerly had. Port l'Orient, famous for the French Eaſt-India company's trade, is upon the ſame river near this place. Port Louis was ceded to the French by the treaty of Vervin in 1598, and Louis XIII. rebuilt it with a well fortified citadel, and gave it the name it bears. The admiral, being unacquainted with the coaſt, did not think it adviſeable to approach it in the night. The next day, General Sinclair went on-board the admiral, to concert with him the proper meaſures for the diſembarkation: when it was agreed, that the two ſloops, the bomb-tender, and cutter, ſhould go in next morning as near ſhore as poſſible, to cover the landing. Early in the morning on the 20th, a large body of militia and ſome cavalry appearing on the

the ſhore, the admiral thought proper to add three forty-gun ſhips to what he had already ordered to cover the landing, which was performed in a bay about the diſtance of ten miles from Port l'Orient. The militia, reinforced by ſome detachments from different regiments, were aſſembled to the number of two thouſand, and ſeemed reſolved to oppoſe the diſembarkation. However, their intentions were fruſtrated by a fineſſe, that did no ſmall credit to the general. There were three places convenient for the debarking of land forces. The fartheſt from l'Orient was a ſandy bank, bounded on one ſide by the river of Quimperlay; on the other, by a riſing ground, which ſeparated it from a ſecond little bay. This ſecond was divided from the third landing place, by an arm of the ſea, which runs above a mile up the country, and by an eminence on which were planted two cannon. This arm of the ſea was only fordable at low water. The two laſt mentioned landing places were lined with militia and gardes de côte: the fartheſt from l'Orient was unoccupied. The wind blew along the coaſt towards l'Orient: all the boats, in which were between five and ſix hundred men (for they contained no more), were ordered to rendezvous at one of the Folſtone cutters, which was anchored the moſt to windward, oppoſite the bay, adjoining to the river of Quimperlay. The wind blew freſh, and it required a conſiderable time for ſome of the boats to reach the place of rendezvous; as their being filled with men prevented the ſeamen from ſetting any ſail. Whilſt the rowers were pulling with difficulty againſt the wind, the enemy perceived it was the intention to land in the unoccupied bay, the moſt diſtant from the town. They therefore determined to change their diſpoſition. The body that was poſted in the ſecond bay, marched round the riſing ground above-mentioned, and drew up on the bay, next to the river of Quimperlay, oppoſite to the rendezvous of the boats, where

they

they were ſo well covered by a bank of ſand, that the cannon of the frigates could not annoy them. The corps which was drawn up on the third landing-place, marched off, with an intent, as it was high water, to go round the arm of the ſea above-mentioned, and to take poſſeſſion of the middle landing-place, which the other body had quitted. But, as a march of that length required ſome time, the general reſolved to ſeize the opportunity, and to land at the middle-place, before the body on their march could poſſibly reach it. To prevent any annoyance from the body which was drawn up in the firſt mentioned bay, he ordered the boats to row directly towards that bay, till they ſhould come almoſt within muſket-ſhot of the enemy, then to turn ſhort and row before the wind with the utmoſt expedition, to the ſecond bay or landing-place; and there to form the troops inſtantly. Leſt the battery of two cannon planted on the eminence, upon the oppoſite ſide of the arm of the ſea, ſhould play upon the boats crowded with troops, and at ſo ſmall a diſtance, he deſired that two armed veſſels might be ordered to ſlip their cables, to fire upon the ſmall battery, if poſſible, to drive the gunners from their guns. Previous to the ſetting out of the boats, theſe ſeveral orders were executed, and the batteries were abandoned. The corps of the enemy waited for the troops where they were poſted, till the boats made the turn to row along the ſhore, and then ran in the utmoſt confuſion and diſorder towards the ſecond bay, where they perceived it was their deſign to land. But the forces were landed and formed without the loſs of a man, before a ſingle perſon of their broken corps could reach the bay to oppoſe them. The general purſued the militia about two miles. On the 21ſt, the day after the debarkation, the army marched in two columns to l'Orient; General Sinclair led one by the way of Plemure; General Offarrel with the other by the great road to

Quimperlay; the latter did not come up till ſeven at night, having been attacked on his march by a body compoſed of militia, and regular forces, which threw the troops under his command into diſorder. Some of the men were wounded, and Lieutenant-colonel Henry Erſkine, quarter-maſter general, dangerouſly. General Sinclair, about five in the evening, proceeded to a windmill within cannon ſhot of the town.

The engineers were immediately ſent to reconnoitre the place; who reported on their return, that the town was defended only by a thin wall, with loop-holes in it, without a foſſé; and from a place they had pitched upon for a battery, they could either make a breach, or lay the town in aſhes in twenty-four hours. The following day the general, accompanied by Mr. Armſtrong the director-general, and Captain Watſon the engineer, went to reconnoitre the place; and in conſequence of the aſſurance given him the night before, and now repeated, he ſent a letter by an officer to ſummon the town to ſurrender.

He was viſited by a deputation from the town, which offered to admit the Britiſh forces on certain conditions. However, the terms being rejected, the inhabitants prepared for a vigorous defence; and the Engliſh general reſolved to beſiege the place in form; though he had neither time, artillery, nor forces ſufficient for ſuch an enterprize. His cannon amounted to no more than a few field-pieces, and he was obliged to wait for two iron guns, which the ſailors dragged up from the ſhipping. Could an aſſault have been given the firſt night after his arrival, when the the town was filled with terror and confuſion, and deſtitute of regular troops, in all probability it would have been eaſily taken by ſcalade. But the reduction of it was rendered impracticable by delay. The ramparts were mounted with cannon from the ſhips in the harbour; new works were raiſed with great

great induſtry; the garriſon was reinforced by ſeveral bodies of regular troops, and great numbers were aſſembling from all parts; ſo that the Britiſh forces were in danger of being ſurrounded in an enemy's country.

The engineers being aſked at a council of war held on-board the admiral, if they thought it practicable, either to burn the town or make a breach in the wall, what artillery, &c. would be wanted, and what time required? their anſwer was, that with two twelve-pounders, and a ten-inch mortar, they engaged to make a proper breach, or lay the town in aſhes in twenty-four hours time. By the 25th in the morning the battery was completed, and the mortar and two twelve-pounders placed on it by the ſailors. This morning alſo a few carcaſſes and bombs were thrown into the town, but no cannon were fired, the commander of the artillery having forgot to order the grate for heating the ball to be brought up; the engineers alſo now deſpaired of being able to make a breach, at the diſtance they had placed the battery.

The officers of the artillery inſiſted they could heat the balls without a furnace; but the general oppoſed their beginning to fire, having then diſcovered, that through the neglect of the officers to whoſe care it belonged, there was not a quantity of ammunition ſufficient to keep a continued fire. In the forenoon, however, two other twelve-pounders and the furnace were brought to camp by the ſailors and a body of marines; one-third of the ſeamen of the whole fleet, beſides the marines and boats' crews, were employed in theſe ſervices. However, in the evening, there was ſuch a report made of the ſituation of affairs as determined the general to call a council of war, which was held in the camp before l'Orient; conſiſting of Lieutenant-general Sinclair; Brigadiers Offarrel, Graham, Richbell; Thomas Armſtrong, chief engineer, and commander of the artillery, &c. Mr. Thomas Armſtrong repreſented to the council, that ſtores and am-

munition came in so slowly, he did not see any probability of their being supplied with ammunition so expeditiously as was necessary for making a proper use of the battery erected the night before, and opened that morning; and, being apprehensive that the service intended cannot be accomplished so soon as was at first expected, there being but thirty-four rounds for each of the four pieces of cannon, and none of the shells or carcasses for the ten-inch mortar left, and considering the number of batteries opened already upon them, and daily likely to be opened, he thought it his duty to represent this to General Sinclair, as he now does to the council of war.

Brigadier Richbell thought it adviseable not to continue the siege of l'Orient, for the following reasons. It appeared to him, from the opinion of the engineers, that they had from the first made a wrong calculation. That by the great fatigues the troops had suffered from the badness of the weather, and the great sickness among them, which daily increased, and the uncertainty of being supplied with proper provisions, he was apprehensive, should the siege be carried on, it might be attended with fatal consequences to the troops. Brigadiers Graham and Offarrel spoke to much the same purpose, and agreed to the reimbarking the troops; the latter adding, as the principle motive to encourage the undertaking of this enterprize, was founded on the short time in which the engineers proposed to have carried it into execution, in which he found they were disappointed; and as their communication with the fleet might be interrupted, he thought it reasonable, after having expended all the ammunition for the heavy artillery, to desist from the enterprize.

General Sinclair then closed the council of war, by saying, that in consequence of his majesty's orders to Admiral Lestock, and him, to make a descent on the western coast of France, he agreed with the

the admiral to view the ſtrength of the town of l'Orient, provided he would land the troops betwixt Quimperlay river and Port Louis; which he having performed, he advanced to the place with the utmoſt expedition; and upon the aſſurances given in the ſtrongeſt terms, by the engineers to the council of war held on-board the Princeſſa, after they had reconnoitred the place, he agreed to make the attempt: ſince which time it was well known to the whole army how aſſiduous he had been in carrying on a ſcheme he had entered into ſolely on the great dependence he had on the engineers in their own ſcience, and not from any ſkill of his own. But now, finding it was the unanimous opinion of the general officers and engineers here preſent, that the undertaking ſhould be laid aſide, he complied with it.

The troops after having ſuſtained very inconſiderable damage, ſince their firſt landing, were reimbarked. The general expected reinforcements from England, and was reſolved to wait a little longer for their arrival, in hopes of being able to annoy the enemy more effectually. In the beginning of October the fleet ſailed to Quiberon Bay, where they took a French man of war; and a detachment of the forces being landed, took poſſeſſion of a fort on the peninſula, while the little iſlands of Houvat and Heydic were reduced by the ſailors. In this ſituation the admiral and general continued till the 17th day of the month, when the forts being diſmantled, and the troops reimbarked, the fleet ſailed from the French coaſt: the admiral returned to England, and the tranſports with the ſoldiers proceeded to Ireland, where they arrived in ſafety.

The French miniſtry, in order to defeat the expedition of Commodore Barnet againſt their trade in the Eaſt-Indies, forwarded a commiſſion to M. de Bourdonnois, governor of the iſlands of France and Bourbon,

Bourbon, by which he was appointed commander in chief of the king's ſhips, with a power of controuling the captains of the company's ſhips. Theſe extenſive powers he received in January, 1746; and about the ſame time Commodore Barnet died, when the command of the Britiſh ſquadron in the Eaſt-Indies devolved on Captain Peyton, who ſent the Deptford and Diamond men of war to England; upon being re-enforced with the Harwich and Wincheſter of fifty guns, and the Lively, of twenty, one of the ſhips which he had taken, he put into commiſſion, and gave the command of her to Captain Griffiths; ſhe mounted forty guns, and received the name of the Medway's Prize. The French commander had eight ſhips of force, one of which, the Inſulaire, was loſt in the Ganges with two hundred and eighty Europeans; notwithſtanding which, the force of the French ſomewhat exceeded that of the Engiſh. On the 25th of June the two fleets came within ſight of each other off the coaſt of Coromandel, and an engagement began at four o'clock in the afternoon, and was maintained with no great ſpirit on either ſide until ſeven o'clock, when night parted the combatants. The next day neither ſide appeared forward to renew the action. In the afternoon the Engliſh commodore ſummoned a council of war, when the ignominious reſolution was taken to ſail away from the French fleet, and proceed to Trincomale bay, on the north-eaſt part of the iſland of Ceylon, upon which Bourdonnois brought his ſquadron back to Pondicherry. In this rencounter fourteen were killed and forty-ſix wounded on-board the Engliſh ſhips, and the French had twenty-ſeven killed and fifty-three wounded. After this the two ſquadrons lay inactive until the middle of Auguſt, when the French fleet arrived in Madras-road, and fired on the Princeſs Mary, one of the company's ſhips; this fire was returned by the ſhip and the fort. Each of the French ſhips gave a broad-

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ſide as ſhe ſtood to the northward, and another as ſhe returned to the ſouthward. After this, the French admiral ſtood for Pondicherry with an intention to offer battle to the Engliſh; but Peyton had got round him to the northward, and on the 23d of Auguſt ſtood into Pullicat road, where he was informed of the proceedings of the French fleet, and of the courſe they had ſteered. This information, inſtead of exciting him to chaſtiſe the enemy for the inſults offered to the ſettlement, made him reſolve to abandon Madras to its fate, and withdraw himſelf from a ſtation, which could only be kept by beating the French fleet; he therefore ſailed for the bay of Bengal, without informing the governor or any one on ſhore with the courſe he intended to ſteer. This daſtardly behaviour of Peyton emboldened Bourdonnois to attack the place.

Madras, or Fort St. George, the capital of the Engliſh company's dominions on the coaſt of Coromandel, has its laſt-mentioned name from the fort in that city, and is ſituated in thirteen degrees north latitude, and in eighty degrees eaſt longitude. Thus it is near four thouſand eight hundred miles to the eaſtward of London, ſo that the ſun viſits them about ſix hours before he riſes in England; and there is ſo little difference in the length of the days, that the Engliſh always reckon it to be ſix o'clock at ſun-riſing and at ſun-ſet. This place, which lies ſeventy miles to the north of Pondicherry, is ſituated on one of the moſt incommodious ſpots imaginable; for the ſea beats perpetually with prodigious violence on the land on which it ſtands; there is no freſh water within a mile of it; in the rainy ſeaſon it is ſubject to inundations, from a river of ſalt water that runs behind it; and the ſun from April to September is exceeding hot, the ſea-breezes alone rendering it habitable. The war carried on by the company at Bombay and Bengal from the year 1685 to 1689, againſt the ſubjects of the Mogul, was a conſiderable advantage

to

to Madras: for the tranquility which reigned there, and its vicinity to the diamond mines of Golconda, where good purchaſes are frequently to be made, cauſed a prodigious reſort of Indian merchants to this place, and contributed to render it populous and flouriſhing.

The fort is a regular ſquare extending about a hundred yards on each ſide, and has four baſtions built with what is there called iron ſtone, from its being of the colour of unwrought iron, and very rough. The fort is defended by no ditch, and the walls are arched and hollowed within. It has two gates, one of which opens to the eaſt, and the other to the weſt. The former, which is towards the ſea, is but ſmall, and is only guarded by a file of muſquetcers; but the weſtern gate, which opens towards the land, is pretty large, and defended by the main guard, the ſoldiers belonging to it lying on the right and left under the wall, which, being hollow, anſwers the purpoſe of a guard-houſe. In the middle of the fort is the governor's houſe, in which are apartments for the company's ſervants.

On the 3d of September the French commander arrived before the town, having three thouſand and two hundred European troops on-board his ſhips, five hundred Coffrys, and a conſiderable number of ſepoys and peons, natives of the coaſt. The French had previouſly landed a body of troops amounting to ſix hundred men, twenty miles ſouthward of Madras; theſe were marched over-land to St. Thomé, within three miles of the town; they covered the debarkation of the main body, which the governor, Nicolas Morſe, was unable to oppoſe, his garriſon being too inconſiderable to admit of a detachment being made large enough for ſuch a purpoſe. Madras was therefore immediately inveſted on the land ſide, whilſt its harbour was effectually blocked up at ſea. Moſt of the Aſiatic inhabitants deſerted their habitations, and fled into the country with their moſt valuable effects. The nabob of Arcot all this while is ſaid to have been induced

induced to keep aloof, and render no assistance to his friends or allies, through the powerful influence of French gold.

The defenceless condition of the place had been represented to the East-India directors by Commodore Barnet in very strong terms; but no steps had been taken to render it more secure. But had the fortifications been in the best order, they would have been of little use, without a sufficient number of men to defend them, which was the situation of affairs at that time: for though, long before the commencement of the war, assurances had been sent from England by the committee board to Governor Morse, that the garrison should be augmented to six hundred Europeans, exclusive of the gun-room crew, yet not more than one-half of that number were actually in the place at the time of its investment, many of which were incapable of service. Some Portuguese diserters from Goa, served indeed to increase the muster-roll, but were destitute alike of activity and courage. In short, not more than two hundred men could be mustered, whose fidelity and bravery were to be relied on, independent of the crew of the Princess Mary, which amounted to eighty more. Nor was the place better provided with officers than soldiers; and though they had near two hundred pieces of cannon, yet these were rendered ineffectual for want of skilful engineers to direct their fire, as well as men to play them. A scarcity of military stores completed the perplexities with which the besieged were encompassed.

The advantages on the side of the French were as great as were the difficulties which the English had to encounter. The intense heat of that parching climate was at this time reduced to its mildest temperature; an ample supply of all things necessary for a siege was at hand, and the commander in chief, who generally diffuses a portion of his own spirit from the second in

command down to the meaneſt drudge in his camp, was a man of ſuperior ſkill, brave, enterpriſing, and unwearied. No time was loſt in making approaches, and in three days after the batteries were opened, ſeven hundred ſhells were thrown into the town. This vigorous aſſault ſoon intimidated thoſe of the garriſon, who were not bound to defend the place either from the attachments which ariſe out of national affinities, or perſonal principles of honour. All the mercenaries ſoon became only anxious to eſcape from that devoted ſpot, and ſought every opportunity of deſerting, ſo that ſome of the batteries preſently became defenceleſs. On the 9th of Auguſt, in the afternoon, the governor and council received advice, that the French were preparing to raiſe a large battery of eighteen-pounders, and had made a general debarkation of their ſeamen to aſſiſt in a general aſſault; upon which, the inhabitants became clamorous for a capitulation.

All this time the Britiſh ſquadron in that quarter, ſo far from exerting that ability which they derived from having an equality of force to that of the French, had withdrawn, and left the beſieged in utter ignorance of the place of it rendezvous. The nabob of Arcot too, who had a force ſufficient to oblige the French to raiſe the ſiege, quietly permitted them to complete their conqueſt. The governor and council, thus deprived of all hope of relief, ſent out a flag of truce to the French commander, and terms of ſurrender were ſoon after adjuſted. It was agreed that a detachment of French troops ſhould be put into poſſeſſion of the town, whilſt the main body remained in camp. The magazines and ſtore-houſes were delivered over to French officers and commiſſaries, and the Engliſh ſoldiers and ſailors were carried on-board the French ſhips in the road, until a ranſom was paid, amounting to one million one hundred thouſand pagodas, or 421,666l. 13s. 4d. ſterling, beſides a very

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conſiderable private preſent to M. de Bourdonnois, who upon the fulfilment of thoſe terms agreed to evacuate the place, and reinſtate the Engliſh in full poſſeſſion of their preſidency. This agreement, however, was not obſerved on the part of the French; Du Pleix, the French governor in India, annulled the capitulation. The Engliſh, and the inhabitants of Madras, who relied upon the rights of nations, were ſtruck with aſtoniſhment at this infraction of the treaty, and word of honour given by Bourdonnois. But their indignation was raiſed to its higheſt pitch, when Du Pleix deſtroyed the black-town, by laying it in ruins. This act of wanton barbarity was greatly injurious to the innocent coloniſts, without being of the leaſt advantage to the French. The ranſom which ſhould have been received was loſt, and the French name became deteſtable throughout all India.

On the 2d of October, the ſeven French ſhips which lay in the road of Madras, having taken on-board what quantity of money, goods, ammunition, and ſtores, they thought proper, ſailed for Pondicherry, with a deſign to attack Fort St. David, and entirely expel the Engliſh from that coaſt. But they had no ſooner got to ſea than a violent ſtorm overtook them. The Duke of Orleans, their ſecond ſhip of force, and two others, foundered. The Achilles, and three other ſhips, loſt all their maſts. The Mermaid, and Advice ſnow, which had belonged to the Engliſh Eaſt-India company, but had been taken in Madras road, were both loſt. In this ſtorm twelve hundred men periſhed, and all farther attempts to annoy the Engliſh by ſea were effectually baffled.

However, this did not prevent the French from attempting Fort St. David by land, the place of the greateſt conſequence to the Engliſh on that coaſt next to Fort St. George, to which it is ſubordinate. It is ſituated five leagues to the ſouthward of Pondicherry, and was purchaſed by the governor of Fort

St. George for the East-India company in 1686, for the sum of 35,000l. The fort is strong; and Mr. Hynd, the governor, had been indefatigable in strengthening it with new works; its territories extended eight miles along the shore, and four miles within the land. On this occasion a large body of Indian militia were taken into pay. In the beginning of December, Du Pleix marched down almost the whole garrison of Pondicherry, to the amount of a thousand regular troops, two hundred trained peons, and some others which arrived, within a mile of the bound-hedge of Fort St. David, having with them a large train of artillery. Upon the approach of the enemy, the English governor detached a large body of Indians, with orders to harrass the French during the night; and at day-break the next morning he began a regular engagement. At the first onset the French forced their way quite to the garden-house, where they were attacked by a body of Moors, and one hundred regulars from the garrison, and obliged to retreat with great precipitation, leaving two hundred of their number slain, among whom were four officers of distinction. They likewise abandoned all their tents and ammunition: six camels, two mortars with their shells, two chests of arms, four drums, and all their provisions, fell into the hands of the English. This disaster did not hinder the French from making fresh preparations as soon as they returned to Pondicherry, to possess themselves of Fort St. David; but the arrival of Commodore Griffin with three sixty-gun ships, one of fifty, and one of forty guns, the beginning of the year 1747, obliged them to desist from all offensive war.

The proceedings of the British fleet in the West-Indies were not more honourable than in the East. Vice-admiral Davers commanded on that station; who, having received intelligence that a large fleet of French merchantmen, under convoy of four men

of

of war, were on their way from Europe to Martinico, ordered Commodore Mitchel in the Strafford, of ſixty guns; with the Lenox, of ſixty-four, Captain Laurence; the Plymouth and Worceſter, ſixty guns each; the Milford, of forty-four; and the Drake ſloop; to cruiſe to the eaſtward of that iſland, in order to intercept them. On the 3d of Auguſt, about three in the afternoon, the Lenox firſt deſcried forty ſail of ſhips to leeward, and ſoon after the whole fleet appeared in ſight. It conſiſted of one man of war of ſeventy-four guns, one of ſixty-four, one of fifty-four, and one of forty-four, and ſixty ſail of merchantmen, and was commanded by M. de Conflans. About ſeven o'clock in the evening Commodore Mitchell made a ſignal to ſpeak with all his ſhips; and, they being brought in, each captain was aſked whether it appeared adviſable to bear down upon the enemy and engage them that night, or lie by until next morning? The general opinion favoured the latter conduct, whereupon it was agreed that the Engliſh ſquadron ſhould keep in ſight during the night, and to windward, and be ready to engage at break of day. The next morning, when a judicious and ſpirited attack would moſt probably have been crowned with glorious ſucceſs, the commodore ſhewed ſo ſtrong a diſlike to engage the enemy, that the whole day was ſpent without nearing them. The next day at ſeven in the morning the two ſquadrons were within two leagues of each other. M. de Conflans formed his men of war in line of battle, and appeared determined to try the event of an action, notwithſtanding his inferiority in number of ſhips. It ſhould ſeem that this firmneſs in the Frenchman diſconcerted Mitchell; for about four in the afternoon, when the breeze freſhened, and the ardour of all on-board the Britiſh ſhips was ſtrongly excited by a proſpect of an immediate engagement, this daſtardly commander made a ſignal to haul on a wind, and ſhorten ſail. By this time they were within three

three miles of the French ſhips, who, ſurprized at ſuch a conduct, gave chaſe. About eight o'clock two of the enemy's ſhips were cloſe under the lee quarter of the Lenox, and poured in a broadſide, which was returned with great ſpirit, and an engagement was maintained for an hour and a half, when the French bore away; their merchantmen having by this time ſafely reached their port. The panic which had ſeized this commander was ſo great, that at night he ordered his ſquadron to put out their lights and make ſail, becauſe the French were following them.

On the 13th of October, Vice-admiral Davers died of a fever at Jamaica, when the chief command devolved on this *magnanimous* officer; during the ſhort time in which he preſided, the trade of the Leeward Iſlands ſuffered eſſentially, from the depredations committed by the French privateers, whilſt the Britiſh men of war were ranged out of their proper ſtations, with a view to intercept ſome rich veſſels from the Spaniſh main, inſtead of being conſtantly employed in cruiſing to windward of the Britiſh iſlands, for the protection of trade.

As ſoon as the conduct of this officer was known to government, Commodore Smith was ſent out to ſuperſede him. He was afterwards tried by a court-martial for his miſbehaviour when in ſight of the French fleet, and for neglecting the ſervice of his ſtation; and though, according to the expreſs law of war, ſuch rank cowardice and flagrant neglect, made his life become forfeit to his injured country; yet ſuch were the moderation and lenity of theſe times, that he was only mulcted five years pay, and judged incapable of ſerving again in the royal navy. At this time, ſuch a ſhameful want of ſpirit and reſolution appeared in many commanders at ſea, as fatally tarniſhed the glory of the Britiſh arms; and whilſt Great Britain poſſeſſed an acknowledged ſuperiority at ſea, ſuch was

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the languid manner in which it was employed, that little national benefit was derived therefrom.

M. de Conflans, whom we have ſeen arrive in ſafety at Martinico, in his paſſage home, in September, fell in with the Engliſh Leeward Iſlands trade, under convoy of the Woolwich and Severn men of war of fifty guns each. After an obſtinate engagement of two hours, he compelled the Severn to ſtrike, and took a few merchantmen, but the reſt eſcaped.

The naval tranſactions in the European ſeas afforded nothing very ſplendid, but they contributed eſſentially to the benefit of the common cauſe. In the Mediterranean, Vice-admiral Medley rendered great ſervice to the Auſtrian general at the ſiege of Antibes; and the Britiſh fleet was very vigilant along the coaſt of Spain, and in the gulph of Genoa, where they intercepted ſeveral Spaniſh, Genoeſe, and Neapolitan veſſels, with military ſtores and proviſions for the forces in Italy: at the ſame time Commodore Townſend was ſtationed with ſix men of war off the iſland of Corſica, to encourage the mal-contents to ſhake off their ſubjection to the Genoeſe. The fleet in the channel was under the command of Vice-admiral Martin, and was very active in repelling French privateers and cruiſers. The Portland man of war of fifty guns, Captain Stevens, being on a cruiſe on the 26th of February, fell in with the Auguſta, a French man of war of fifty guns, lately come out of Breſt on a cruiſe. The Frenchman immediately bore down within piſtol-ſhot of the Portland, and hoiſted his proper colours; the Engliſhman did the ſame, and the battle was immediately joined, and maintained yard-arm and yard arm for three hours and a half, when the Auguſta, being greatly diſabled, ſtruck. She had forty-ſeven men killed, and ninety-four wounded; Captain Stevens loſt only five men killed, and fourteen wounded. He brought his prize into Plymouth. The ſame ſhip on the 19th of November, fell in with the Subtile, a French frigate

frigate of twenty-six guns, and one hundred and ninety-four men, which he took off Ushant, and brought into Torbay.—The Nottingham, of sixty guns, and four hundred men, commanded by Captain Saumarez, cruising off Cape Clear, on the 11th of October, fell in with the Mars of sixty-four guns, and five hundred men, commanded by M. de Colombe, being one of the ships that had separated from d'Anville's fleet in the storm off Newfoundland. She was returning to Brest. After an engagement of two hours, in which the Mars had twenty-three killed and nineteen wounded, she struck; on-board the Nottingham, only three men were killed, and nine wounded. On the 24th of November, the Namur chased into the British squadron, another ship of d'Anville's fleet, named the Mercury; she had been converted into an hospital-ship, and being a good sailer, got ahead of the fleet, which was on their return.—On the 26th of December, the Gloucester of fifty guns, Captain Saunders, and the Lark, of forty guns, Captain Cheap, fell in with and took the Fort de Nantz, a Spanish galleon, of thirty-two guns and two hundred men, from Vera Cruz, and the Havannah, both bound for Cadiz: their freight consisted of one hundred and fifty chests of silver registered, each chest containing about three thousand dollars, a great quantity of gold and silver unregistered, the whole amounting to 300,000l. sterling.

The captures made by the French this year were as follow, viz. One man of war of fifty guns, a sloop of war, eight privateers, and three hundred and eighteen merchantmen in the European seas, which with those in America, made the whole number of prizes taken this year by the French, consist of one man of war of fifty guns, two sloops of war, nine privateers, one East-Indiaman, and four hundred and sixty-six merchant vessels; in all four hundred and seventy-nine; making the whole number of British ships and vessels taken

taken by the French, ſince the declaration of hoſtilities, amount to eleven hundred and twenty-two. The Spaniards this year took one hundred and five Britiſh veſſels in the European ſeas, and ſeventy-eight in America, in all one hundred and eighty-three; which made the whole number of Britiſh ſhips and veſſels taken by the Spaniards, ſince the 23d of October 1739, amount to one thouſand ſeventy-one; and thoſe taken in the year 1746 by the French and Spaniards, to conſiſt of ſix hundred and ſixty-two.

The captures made by Great Britain were as follow, viz. nine privateers, four regiſter ſhips, and fifteen other Spaniſh veſſels in the European ſeas, which with the captures in America, made the whole loſs ſuſtained by the Spaniards, during the year 1746 to conſiſt in twenty-two privateers, ten regiſter ſhips, and fifty-ſix other merchantile veſſels; in all eighty-eight. Theſe made the whole number of Spaniſh ſhips and veſſels taken by the Engliſh ſince the commencement of the war to amount to one thouſand and ſixty.—The captures from the French were four men of war, fifty-three privateers, and two hundred and three merchantile veſſels in the European ſeas, beſides ſeven ſloops in the Eaſt-Indies, in all two hundred and ſeventy; making together with the captures in America, the whole number of prizes taken from the French, in the courſe of the year, to conſiſt of ſeven men of war, ninety-one privateers, twenty-three Turkey ſhips, five Guineamen, one hundred and forty-three Martinico and St. Domingo ſhips, twenty-one Newfoundland ſhips, ſeven ſloops belonging to the French company in the Eaſt-Indies, and one hundred and thirteen other merchantile veſſels, in all four hundred and ten; which were ſixty-nine ſhort of the prizes taken in the ſame year by the French alone, and one hundred and ſixty-four ſhort of thoſe taken by the French and Spaniards jointly. The whole number of prizes

taken from the French from the 24th of March 1744, amounted to eleven hundred and ſixty; being thirty-eight more than thoſe taken by the French.

The parliament met on the 18th of November, 1746. The king exhorted both houſes to concert with all poſſible expedition the proper meaſures for purſuing the war with vigour, that the confederate army in the Netherlands might be ſeaſonably augmented: he, likewiſe, gave them to underſtand, that the funds appropriated for the ſupport of his civil government had for ſome years paſt fallen ſhort of the revenue intended and granted by parliament; and ſaid he relied on their known affection to find out ſome method to make good this deficiency. The commons, having conſidered the eſtimates, voted forty thouſand ſeamen for the ſervice of the enſuing year, and about ſixty thouſand land-forces, including eleven thouſand five hundred marines. They granted four hundred and thirty-three thouſand pounds to the Empreſs Queen of Hungary; three hundred thouſand pounds to the King of Sardinia; four hundred and ten thouſand pounds for the maintenance of eighteen thouſand Hanoverian auxiliaries; one hundred and ſixty-one thouſand ſix hundred and ſeven pounds for ſix thouſand Heſſians; ſubſidies to the Electors of Cologn, Mentz, and Bavaria; and the ſum of five hundred thouſand pounds to enable his majeſty to proſecute the war with advantage. In a word, the ſupplies amounted to 9,425,254l. a ſum almoſt incredible, if we conſider how the kingdom had been already drained of its treaſure. It was raiſed by the uſual taxes, reinforced with new impoſitions on windows, carriages, and ſpirituous liquors, a lottery, and a loan from the ſinking-fund.

The king, in order to exhibit a ſpecimen of his deſire to diminiſh the public expence, ordered the third and fourth troops of his life-guards to be diſbanded, and reduced three regiments of horſe to the quality

quality of dragoons. These important matters being settled, the legislature set about establishing several salutary regulations in Scotland. The highlanders, who had till this time continued to wear the old military dress of the Romans, and who always went armed, were restrained in the use both of their dress and their weapons. To compensate for which, they were admitted to a participation of that liberty which their fellow-subjects of the British empire enjoyed, by an act of parliament, which took away the heretable jurisdictions in Scotland, extended the influence, benefit, and protection, of the king's laws and courts of justice, to all his majesty's subjects in Scotland, and rendered the union more complete. Hereby all heretable jurisdiction of justiciary, and all regalities, other than the office of high-constable of Scotland, were, from lady-day 1748, abrogated, totally dissolved, and extinguished; reasonable pecuniary compensations being made to the possessors of such heretable jurisdictions. All tenure of land by wardship, which was a heavy grievance, and subjected minors to the absolute controul of their feudal lords in many cases, was totally abolished by this salutary statute, which may be termed a new Magna Charta for Scotland.

The operations of the campaign had been concerted in the winter at the Hague, between the Duke of Cumberland and the states-general, who were by this time generally convinced of the intention of France to encroach upon their territories. They, therefore, determined to take effectual measures against that restless and ambitious neighbour. The allied powers agreed to assemble a vast army in the Netherlands; and it was resolved that the Austrians and the Piedmontese should once more penetrate into Provence. The Dutch patriots, however, were not roused into this exertion, until all their remonstrances had failed at the court of Versailles, until they had been urged by repeated memorials of the English ambassador,

and ſtimulated by the immediate danger to which their country was expoſed: for France was by this time poſſeſſed of all the Auſtrian Netherlands, and ſeemed bent upon penetrating into the territories of the United Provinces. In February, 1747, the Duke of Cumberland began to aſſemble the allied forces; and in the latter end of March they took the field in three ſeparate bodies. His royal highneſs, with the Engliſh, Hanoverians, and Heſſians, fixed his head-quarters at the village of Tilberg; the Prince of Waldeck was poſted with the Dutch troops at Breda; and Marſhal Bathiani collected the Auſtrians and Bavarians in the neighbourhood of Venlo. The whole army amounted to one hundred and twenty thouſand men, who lay inactive ſix weeks, expoſed to the inclemency of the weather, and almoſt deſtitute of forage and proviſion. Count Saxe, by this time created Marſhal-general of France, continued his troops within their cantonments at Bruges, Antwerp, and Bruſſels, declaring that, when the allied army ſhould be weakened by ſickneſs and mortality, he would convince the Duke of Cumberland, that the firſt duty of a general is to provide for the health and preſervation of his troops. In April this fortunate commander took the field, at the head of one hundred and forty thouſand men; Count Clermont commanded a ſeparate body of nineteen battalions and thirty ſquadrons. Count Lowendahl was detached on the 16th of the month, with twenty-ſeven thouſand men, to invade Dutch Flanders: he entered Dutch Brabant, and inveſted the town and fortreſs of Sluys, the garriſon of which ſurrendered priſoners of war on the 19th of April. This was likewiſe the fate of Sas-van-Ghent; while the Marquis de Contades, with another detachment, reduced the forts Perle and Leifkenſhoek, with the town of Philippine, even within hearing of the confederate army. The fort of Sanberg was vigorouſly defended by two Engliſh battalions: but they were overpowered,

overpowered, and obliged to retire to Welſthoorden; and Count Lowendahl undertook the ſiege of Hulſt, which was ſhamefully ſurrendered by La Roque, the Dutch governor, though he knew that a reinforcement of nine battalions was on their march to his relief. Then the French general took poſſeſſion of Axel and Terneuſe, and began to prepare flat-bottomed boats for a deſcent on the iſland of Zealand. The Dutch were now ſtruck with conſternation. They ſaw the enemy at their doors, and owed their immediate preſervation to the Britiſh ſquadron ſtationed at the Swin, under the command of Commodore Mitchel, who, by means of his ſloops, tenders, and ſmall craft, took ſuch meaſures as defeated the intention of Lowendahl. The common people in Zealand, being reduced to deſpair, began to clamour loudly againſt their governors, as if they had not taken the proper meaſures for their ſecurity. The friends of the Prince of Orance did not neglect this opportunity of promoting his intereſt. They encouraged their diſcontent, and exaggerated the danger: they reminded them of the year 1672, when the French king was at the gates of Amſterdam, and the republic was ſaved by the choice of a ſtadtholder: they exhorted them to turn their eyes on the deſcendant of thoſe heroes who had eſtabliſhed the liberty and independence of the united provinces: they extolled his virtue and ability; his generoſity, his juſtice, his unſhaken love to his country. The people in ſeveral towns, inflamed by ſuch repreſentations to tumult and ſedition, compelled their magiſtrates to declare the Prince of Orange ſtadtholder. He himſelf, in a letter to the ſtates of Zealand, offered his ſervices for the defence of the province. On the 28th of April he was nominated Captain-General and Admiral of Zealand. Their example was followed by Rotterdam and the whole Province of Holland; and on the 2d of May, the Prince of Orange was, in the aſſembly of the ſtates-general,

neral, invested with the power anddignity of Stadtholder, Captain-General, and Admiral, of the United Provinces. The vigorous consequences of this resolution immediately appeared. All commerce and contracts with the French were prohibited: the peasants were armed and exercised: a resolution passed for making a considerable augmentation of the army: a council of war was established for enquiring into the conduct of the governors who had given up the frontier places; and orders were issued to commence hostilities against the French, both by sea and land.

Meanwhile, the Duke of Cumberland took post with his whole army between the two Nethes, to cover Bergen-op-Zoom and Maestricht; and Marshal Saxe called in his detachments, with a view to hazard a general engagement. In the latter end of May, the French king arrived at Brussels; and his general resolved to undertake the siege of Maestricht. For this purpose he advanced towards Louvain; and the confederates perceiving his drift, began their march to take post between the town and the enemy. On the 20th of June, they took possession of their ground, and were drawn up in order of battle, with their right at Bilsen, and their left extending to Wirle, within a mile of Maestricht, having in the front of their left wing the village of Laffeldt, in which they posted several battalions of British infantry. The French had taken possession of the heights of Herdeeren, immediately above the allies; and both armies cannonaded each other till the evening. In the morning, the enemy's infantry marched down the hill, in a prodigious column, and attacked the village of Laffeldt, which was well fortified, and defended with amazing obstinacy. The assailants suffered terribly in their approach, from the cannon of the confederates, which was served with surprising dexterity and success; and they met with such a warm reception from the British musquetry as they could not withstand: but, when they were broken

broken and diſperſed, freſh brigades ſucceeded with aſtoniſhing perſeverance. The confederates were driven out of the village: yet, being ſuſtained by three regiments, they meaſured back their ground, and repulſed the enemy with great ſlaughter. Nevertheleſs, Count Saxe continued pouring in other battalions, and the French regained and maintained their footing in the village, after it had been three times loſt and carried. The action was chiefly confined to this poſt, where the field exhibited a horrible ſcene of carnage. At noon the Duke of Cumberland ordered the whole left wing to advance againſt the enemy, whoſe infantry gave way: Prince Waldeck led up the centre: Marſhal Bathiani made a motion with the right wing towards Herdeeren, and victory ſeemed ready to declare for the confederates, when the fortune of the day took a ſudden turn to their prejudice. Several ſquadrons of Dutch horſe, poſted in the centre, gave way, and flying at full gallop, overthrew five battalions of infantry that were advancing from the body of reſerve. The French cavalry charged them with great impetuoſity, increaſing the confuſion that was already produced, and penetrating through the lines of the allied army, which was thus divided about the centre. The Duke of Cumberland, who exerted himſelf with equal courage and activity in attempting to remedy this diſorder, was in danger of being taken; and the defeat would in all probability have been total, had not Sir John Ligonier taken the reſolution of ſacrificing himſelf and a part of the troops to the ſafety of the army. At the head of three Britiſh regiments of dragoons, and ſome ſquadrons of imperial horſe, he charged the whole line of the French cavalry, with ſuch intrepidity and ſucceſs, that he overthrew all that oppoſed him, and made ſuch a diverſion as enabled the Duke of Cumberland to effect an orderly retreat to Maeſtricht. He himſelf was taken by a French carbineer, after his horſe had been killed:

killed: but the regiments he commanded retired with deliberation. The confederates retreated to Maeſtricht, without having ſuſtained much damage from the purſuit, and even brought off all their artillery, except ſixteen pieces of cannon. Their loſs did not exceed ſix thouſand men killed and taken: whereas the French general purchaſed the victory at a much greater expence. The common cauſe of the confederate powers is ſaid to have ſuffered from the pride and ignorance of their generals. On the eve of the battle, when the detachment of Count Clermont appeared on the hill of Herdeeren, Marſhal Bathiani aſked permiſſion of the Duke of Cumberland to attack them before they ſhould be reinforced, declaring he would anſwer for the ſucceſs of the enterpriſe. No regard was paid to this propoſal: but the ſuperior aſked in his turn, where the marſhal would be in caſe he ſhould be wanted? He replied, "I ſhall always be "found at the head of my troops;" and retired in diſguſt. The ſubſequent diſpoſition has likewiſe been blamed, inaſmuch as not above one-half of the army could act, while the enemy exerted their whole force.

The confederates paſſed the Maeſe, and encamped in the duchy of Limburg, ſo as to cover Maeſtricht; while the French King remained with his army in the neighbourhood of Tongres. Marſhal Saxe having amuſed the allies with marches and counter-marches, at length detached Count Lowendahl with thirty-ſix thouſand men to beſiege Bergen-op-Zoom, the ſtrongeſt fortification of Dutch Brabant, the favourite work of the famous engineer Cohorn, never conquered, and generally eſteemed invincible. It was ſecured with a garriſon of three thouſand men, and well provided with artillery, ammunition, and magazines. The enemy appeared before it on the 12th of July, and ſummoned the governor to ſurrender. The prince of Saxe-Hildburghauſen was ſent to its relief, with twenty battalions and fourteen ſquadrons of the troops that could

could be moſt conveniently aſſembled; he entered the lines of Bergen-op-Zoom, where he remained in expectation of a ſtrong reinforcement from the confederate army; and the old Baron Cronſtrom, whom the ſtadtholder had appointed governor of Brabant, aſſumed the command of the garriſon. The beſiegers carried on their operations with great vivacity; and the troops in the town defended it with equal vigour. The eyes of all Europe were turned upon this important ſiege: Count Lowendahl received divers reinforcements; and a conſiderable body of troops was detached from the allied army, under the command of Baron Schwartzemberg, to co-operate with the Prince of Saxe Hildburghauſen. The French general loſt a great number of men by the cloſe and continual fire of the beſieged; while he, in his turn, opened ſuch a number of batteries, and plied them ſo warmly, that the defences began to give way. From the 16th of July to the 15th of September, the ſiege produced a ſcene of horror and deſtruction: deſperate ſallies were made, and mines ſprung with the moſt dreadful effects: the works began to be ſhattered; the town was laid in aſhes; the trenches were filled wtth carnage: nothing was ſeen but fire and ſmoke; nothing was heard but one continued roar of bombs and cannon. But ſtill the damage fell chiefly on the beſiegers, who were ſlain in heaps; while the garriſon ſuffered very little, and could be occaſionally relieved or reinforced from the lines. In a word, it was generally believed that Count Lowendahl would be baffled in his endeavours; and by this belief the governor of Bergen-op-Zoom ſeems to have been lulled into a blind ſecurity. At length, ſome inconſiderable breaches were made in one ravelin and two baſtions, and theſe the French general reſolved to ſtorm, though Cronſtrom believed they were impracticable; and on that ſuppoſition preſumed that the enemy would not attempt an aſſault. For this very reaſon Count Lowendahl reſolved to ha-

zard the attack, before the preparations ſhould be made for his reception. He accordingly regulated his diſpoſitions, and at four o'clock in the morning, on the 16th of September, the ſignal was made for the aſſault. A prodigious quantity of bombs being thrown into the ravelin, his troops threw themſelves into the foſſé, mounted the breaches, forced open a ſally-port, and entered the place almoſt without reſiſtance. In a word, they had time to extend themſelves along the curtains, and form in order of battle, before the garriſon could be aſſembled. Cronſtrom was aſleep, and the ſoldiers upon duty had been ſurprized by the ſuddenneſs and impetuoſity of the attack. Though the French had taken poſſeſſion of the ramparts, they did not gain the town without oppoſition. Two battalions of the Scottiſh troops, in the pay of the ſtates-general, were aſſembled in the market-place, and attacked them with ſuch fury, that they were driven from ſtreet to ſtreet, until freſh reinforcements arriving, compelled the Scots to retreat in their turn; yet they diſputed every inch of the ground, and fought until two-thirds of them were killed upon the ſpot. Then they brought off the old governor, abandoning the town to the enemy: the troops that were encamped in the lines retreated with great precipitation, all the forts in the neighbourhood immediately ſurrendered to the victors, who now became maſters of the whole navigation of the Schelde. The French king was no ſooner informed of Lowendahl's ſucceſs, than he promoted him to the rank of Marſhal of France; appointed Count Saxe governor of the conquered Netherlands; and returned in triumph to Verſailles. In a little time after this tranſaction, both armies were diſtributed into winter quarters, and the Duke of Cumberland embarked for England.

In Italy, the French arms did not triumph with equal ſucceſs, though Marſhal de Belleiſle ſaw himſelf

ſelf at the head of a powerful army in Provence. In April he paſſed the Var without oppoſition, and took poſſeſſion of Nice. He met with little or no reſiſtance in reducing Montalban, Villafranca, and Ventimiglia; while General Brown, with twenty-eight thouſand Auſtrians, retired towards Final and Savona. In the mean time, another large body, under Count Schuylemberg, who had ſucceeded the Marquis de Botta, co-operated with fifteen thouſand Piedmonteſe in an attempt to recover the city of Genoa. The French king had ſent thither ſupplies, ſuccours, and engineers, with the Duke de Boufflers, as ambaſſador to the republic, who likewiſe acted as commander in chief of the forces employed for its defence. The Auſtrian general aſſembled his troops in the Milaneſe: having forced the paſſage of the Bochetta on the 13th of January, he advanced into the territories of Genoa, and the Riviera was ravaged without mercy. On the laſt day of March he appeared before the city, at the head of forty thouſand men, and ſummoned the revolters to lay down their arms. The anſwer he received was, That the republic of Genoa had fifty thouſand men in arms, two hundred and ſixty cannon, thirty-four mortars, with abundance of ammunition and proviſion; that they would defend their liberty with their laſt blood, and be buried in the ruins of their capital, rather than ſubmit to the clemency of the court of Vienna, except by an honourable capitulation, guaranteed by the kings of Great Britain and Sardinia, the republic of Venice, and the United Provinces. In the beginning of May, Genoa was inveſted on all ſides; a furious ſally was made by the Duke de Boufflers, who drove the beſiegers from their poſts; but the Auſtrians rallying he was repulſed in his turn, with the loſs of ſeven hundred men. General Schuylemberg carried on his operations with ſuch ſkill, vigour, and intrepidity, that he made himſelf maſter of the ſuburbs of Biſagno; and in all probability

bability would have reduced the city, had he not been obliged to desist, in consequence of the repeated remonstrances made by the King of Sardinia and Count Brown, who represented the necessity of his abandoning his enterprize, and drawing off his army, to cover Piedmont and Lombardy from the efforts of Marshal Belleisle. Accordingly, he raised the siege on the 10th of June, and returned into the Milanese, in order to join his Sardinian majesty; while the Genoese made an irruption into the Parmesan and Placentin, where they committed terrible outrages, in revenge for the mischiefs they had undergone.

While Marshal Belleisle remained at Ventimiglia, his brother, at the head of thirty-four thousand French and Spaniards, attempted to penetrate into Piedmont; on the 6th of July he arrived at the pass of Exilles, a strong fortress on the frontiers of Dauphiné, situated on the north side of the river Doria. The defence of this important post the King of Sardinia had committed to the care of the Count de Brigueras, who formed an encampment behind the lines, with fourteen battalions of Piedmontese and Austrians, while divers detachments were posted along all the passes of the Alps. On the 8th of the month, the Piedmontese entrenchments were attacked by the Chevalier de Belleisle, brother to the marshal, with incredible intrepidity; but the columns were repulsed with great loss in three successive attacks. Impatient of this obstinate opposition, and determined not to survive a miscarriage, this impetuous general seized a pair of colours, and advancing at the head of his troops, through a prodigious fire, pitched them with his own hand on the enemy's entrenchments. At that instant he fell dead, having received two musquet balls and the thrust of a bayonet in his body. The assailants were so much dispirited by the death of their commander, that they forthwith gave way, and retreated with precipitation towards Sestrieres, having lost near five thousand

thouſand men in the attack. The marſhal was no ſooner informed of his brother's misfortune, than he retreated towards the Var, to join the troops from Exilles, while the King of Sardinia, having aſſembled an army of ſeventy thouſand men, threatened Dauphiné with an invaſion; but the exceſſive rains prevented the execution of his deſign. General Leutrum was detached with twenty battalions to drive the French from Ventimiglia; but Belleiſle marching back, that ſcheme was likewiſe fruſtrated; and thus ended the campaign.

In this manner was the French king baffled in his projects upon Italy; nor was he more fortunate in his naval operations. During the long adminiſtration of Cardinal Fleury, the improvement of the French marine made no part of his ſyſtem of government, on which account he never excited the jealouſy of the maritime ſtates againſt France. The Britiſh navy conſiſted of ninety-two ſhips of the line, thirty-five fifty-gun ſhips, and one hundred and ſeventeen frigates, from ſixteen to forty guns. Notwithſtanding this unprecedented degree of ſtrength, the French by dint of ſuperior vigilance and addreſs, had carried on their commerce during the war with little loſs; had ſeldom been worſted, and never diſgraced.

The miſcarriage of the French fleet which was ſent to America the preceding year, had not diſcouraged France from attempting the recovery of Cape Breton, the importance of which to their poſſeſſions in Canada they were fully ſenſible of. A fleet was therefore prepared in the ſpring of the year 1747, to proceed to America, and the command given to M. de la Jonquiere. With this force they flattered themſelves with the hopes, not only of regaining what they had loſt, but of annexing Acadia to their poſſeſſions, when they ſhould be aſſiſted by the ſtrength which they could draw from Canada. The deſigns of this enterpriſing nation did not ſtop here. In the eaſt they meant

meant to push their conquests, and had already in idea, dispossessed their rivals of every fort and factory which they held in those extensive regions. For this purpose another squadron was prepared, to be commanded by M. de St. George, who was to succeed Bourdonnois.

These two squadrons were to put to sea together, and proceed with the trade ships destined both for the eastern and western worlds, so far as their courses were the same.

The English ministry was apprized of these armaments, and resolved to intercept both. A fleet was therefore got ready, the command of which was given to Vice admiral Anson and Rear-admiral Warren; it sailed from Plymouth on the 9th of April, proceeded to Cape Finisterre, on the coast of Gallicia, and there cruised in expectation of the enemy. On the 3d of May, the cape bearing S. E. distant twenty-four leagues, the expected fleet appeared in sight, commanded by La Jonquiere and St. George, consisting of six large ships of war, as many frigates, and four armed vessels equipped by their East-India company, having under their convoy about thirty ships laden with merchandize. Those prepared for war immediately shortened sail, and formed in a line of battle; while the rest, under the protection of six frigates, proceeded on their voyage with all the sail they could carry. The British squadron was likewise drawn up in line of battle; but Mr. Warren perceiving that the enemy began to sheer off, now their convoy was at a considerable distance, advised Admiral Anson to haul in the signal for the line, and hoist another for giving chase and engaging, otherwise the French would, in all probability, escape by favour of the night. The proposal was embraced; and the signal for the whole fleet to chase and engage, *without any regard to the line of battle*, was thrown out; soon after which the engagement was begun by the Centurion, who had got

up

up with the ſternmoſt ſhip of the French about four o'clock in the afternoon. Two of the largeſt French ſhips bore down to the aſſiſtance of the ſhip which was attacked. The Namur, Defiance, and Windſor, being the next headmoſt ſhips, ſoon entered into action with five French ſhips, and a terrible fire was kept up on both ſides. The Centurion ſoon loſt her main-top-maſt, which occaſioned her to drop aſtern to refit, which was no ſooner done than Captain Denis brought his ſhip again into action. Captain Grenville of the Defiance bravely bore down to the aſſiſtance of the Namur, who was ſuſtaining an unequal conteſt with the French ſhips, and bringing his ſhip on her ſtarboard bow, relieved her from the fire of one of the enemy's ſhips, by receiving it into his own. After a very ſharp conteſt the three Britiſh ſhips had ſo diſabled their five antagoniſts that they would infallibly become an eaſy prey to that part of the Britiſh fleet which was yet aſtern; the Namur, Defiance, and Windſor, therefore, made ſail ahead to prevent the van of the French from eſcaping. In the mean time Rear-admiral Warren, in the Devonſhire, came up with and engaged the French commodore La Jonquiere, in the Serieux. As he approached, the Frenchman ſaluted him with a terrible fire, to which he made no return until he was within piſtol ſhot, when his great guns dealt ſuch havock to his adverſary as obliged her preſently to ſtrike. No ſoon had the rear-admiral made himſelf maſter of this prize, than he made up to the other French commander in the Invincible, although a ſhip of much ſuperior force to his own, but her main-top-maſt had been already ſhot away by the Namur. As ſoon as he had diſcharged his firſt broadſide, Captain William Montague, in the Briſtol, bore down to ſecond him, and preſently diſmaſted the Invincible; and the furious aſſault that was made upon her, both by the Devonſhire and Briſtol, ſtruck her men with ſuch terror that they were

were incapable of ſtanding to their guns. The ſpirit with which our captains were animated on this occaſion, appears from the following circumſtance. When the Briſtol had begun to engage with the Invincible, Captain Fincher, in the Pembroke, attempted to get in between her and the French ſhip, but, there not being room enough, the commander of the Pembroke hailed the Briſtol, and bid her put her helm a-ſtarboard, or his ſhip would run foul of her; to which Captain Montague replied, "Run foul "of me, and be d——; neither you, nor any man "in the world, ſhall come between me and my "enemy." When the Invincible fired only her muſquetry, Captain Montague left her to be picked up by the ſhips aſtern, when commanding his ſails to be filled again, he ſaid, "My boys, we will have another "of them;" and immediately gave chaſe to two of the enemy, which were ſpreading all their ſail to get away; but he preſently reached the Diamond of fifty-ſix guns, and, after an engagement within piſtol ſhot, which laſted near an hour and three quarters, the enemy being diſmaſted, and one of her upper-deck guns burſting, and her rigging ſhattered to pieces, ſhe ſtruck. When the Briſtol's lieutenant went on-board, he was aſtoniſhed at the ſcene of deſtruction which preſented itſelf; her poop and quarter-deck were like a ſlaughter-houſe, ſtreaming with blood, and ſtrewed with mangled limbs and carcaſſes of the dying and the dead.

While the Namur, Defiance, Windſor, Centurion, Yarmouth, Pembroke, and Devonſhire, were engaging ſome of the French ſhips, and purſuing others, Vice-admiral Anſon, in the Prince George, came up to the Invincible, but before he fired upon her, all the French ſhips in the rear ſtruck their colours between ſix and ſeven, as did all thoſe that were in the line before night.

At

At seven o'clock, the vice-admiral brought to, having detached the Monmouth, Yarmouth, and Nottingham, in pursuit of the convoy, who then bore west by south-west, at about four or five leagues distance, being followed by the Falcon sloop all the time of the engagement, whose captain was ordered to make signals for a guidance to the other ships, by which means the Vigilante, and Modeste, of twenty-two guns each, with the Dartmouth, formerly an English privateer of eighteen guns, and fifty men, were taken; being the only East-India ships that fled from the engagement. Six other ships of the convoy fell into the hands of the English, but the rest escaped by favour of the night.

The French behaved with great gallantry in this action, but the impetuous valour of the English was irresistible; their sailors far surpassed those of the French, both in discipline and firing, and, as only eight English ships were engaged, the superiority on our side was not very great. The British ships suffered severely in their masts and rigging; about five hundred and twenty were either killed or wounded. On the side of the French about seven hundred were either killed or wounded. But the greatest loss sustained by the conquerors was from the death of Captain Grenville, of the Defiance; who, though no more than twenty-eight years of age at the time of his death, was an excellent officer, regretted by the whole fleet, lamented by his admiral, and deplored by his king and country. He was nephew to Lord Cobham, youngest brother to Lord Temple, brother-in-law to Mr. Pitt, and maternal cousin to Lord Littleton. His uncle caused a pedestal to be erected to his memory, in the temple of British worthies, at Stow-gardens; and his cousin lamented his loss, and sung his praises in tender elegiac strains. Captain Boscawen, of the Namur, was wounded in the shoulder by a musket-ball, but no other officer of the

Britiſh fleet was hurt. M. de la Jonquiere, the French chef d'eſcadre, was ſhot under the blade-bones of both his ſhoulders; one of his captains was killed, and another loſt a leg. The French fleet would have ſeparated in a day or two if this diſaſter had not befallen it. The Invincible and Jaſon were to have proceeded to the Eaſt-Indies, with the trade and ſtore-ſhips, and the reſt to have bent their courſe for Canada. Our victorious fleet brought their noble acquiſition into Portſmouth, with all the exultation attendant on glorious and deciſive victory. A conſiderable quantity of ſilver was on-board this captured fleet, which was brought through the city of London in twenty waggons, guarded by marines, and lodged in the bank. The ſhare of prize-money to each private ſeaman on-board the Britiſh fleet, amounted to ſeven pounds five ſhillings and ſix-pence; every petty officer received thirty-eight pounds four ſhillings; the next rank of officers one hundred and thirty-three pounds, and each lieutenant two hundred and ninety-three pounds. "Of the ſilver taken at this time," ſays Voltaire, "ſome money was coined, the legend of which was the word FINISTERRE, which ſerved both as a flattering remembrance of the victory, and an encouragement to the the people: it was a glorious imitation of the ancient cuſtom among the Romans, of engraving in this manner on their current money, the moſt remarkable events of their empire."

On their return to London, Vice-admiral Anſon was created a peer, by the title of Lord Anſon, Baron of Soberton, in the county of Southampton; and Rear-admiral Warren was inveſted with the order of the Bath. Theſe honours were ſoon followed by a general promotion of naval officers.

The Britiſh cabinet now diſcovered a degree of vigilance to which they had been ſtrangers during the war. Before this blow had been ſtruck, the lords of the admiralty had appointed another ſquadron to intercept

tercept a large fleet of French merchantmen, which were homeward-bound from St. Domingo; the command of which expedition was given to Captain Fox, in the Kent. He had with him, Kent, seventy-guns; Hampton-court, seventy; Eagle, sixty; Lion, sixty; Chester, fifty; Hector, forty-four; Pluto and Dolphin, fire-ships. Commodore Fox sailed on the 10th of April, and took his station in the Bay of Biscay; on the 20th of June at four in the morning, the French appeared in sight, being then in the latitude of 47. 18. N. Cape Ortegal in Galicia, the most northern promontory in Spain, bearing south-east. This fleet consisted of one hundred and seventy sail, and was convoyed by Monsieur du Bois de la Motte. He had with him the Magnanime, seventy-four guns; the Alcide, sixty-four; the Arc en Ciel, fifty-eight; and the Zephyr, thirty-six. The French were to windward, but the British squadron chased them the whole day, and at night the French men of war were distant from the Kent about two leagues; but the English ships having been two months out of harbour, were foul and sickly, so that they could gain but little upon the French men of war, although they had all their sails set, and the French were under their top-sails and fore-sails. On the evening of the 21st they began to gain upon the enemy, when the French spread their sails, and went away without making any signal either by light or gun, and in the night got clear off. The merchant ships were now left defenceless; the English ships therefore pursued them and took several. On the 23d a great many more fell into their hands. Some of the ships that escaped from these pursuers fell into the hands of Sir Peter Warren, who had sailed from Plymouth the 6th of June, with a squadron to intercept such ships as might escape from Commodore Fox.

After three years of languid war, the destruction of the French navy and commerce were now to be effected by a rapid succession of victories. A very

large fleet of French merchant-ships, consisting of two hundred and fifty-two sail, were assembling at the isle of Aix, to proceed thence to the West-Indies; they were escorted by a strong squadron of men of war.

No sooner was intelligence of this fleet received by the British ministry, than the lords of the admiralty caused a fleet to be got ready to intercept them also; the command of which was given to Rear-admiral Hawke, who sailed from Plymouth on the 9th of August, and continued to cruise for some time on the coast of Bretagne. The whole French fleet set sail from Aix on the 6th of October, with an east-north-east wind, which ceasing, they were obliged to anchor in the road of Rochelle, from whence they sailed the next morning, and made for the latitude of Belle-Isle on the southern coast of Bretagne, where they arrived on the 10th, then stretching sail from the land.

On the 14th at seven in the morning, the English fleet being in latitude 47. 49. N. and longitude from Cape Finisterre 1. 2. W. the Edinburgh made a signal for seeing seven sail in the south-east quarter, upon which Hawke immediately made the signal for all the fleet to chase; about eight he saw a great number of ships, so crouded that he could not count them; but at ten he made a signal for forming a line of battle a-head. The French commodore, when he first saw the British squadron in the horizon, making swiftly after him, took them for some of his own fleet; but, when he discovered what they were, he threw out a signal for the merchantmen to make the best of their way, and at the same time made a signal for the men of war to form the line of battle; the Intrepide, Trident, and Terrible, composed the van; the Tonant and Monarque the centre; and the Severn, Fougueux, and Neptune, the rear. It was of the last importance that this line should form immediately; but the preservation of the merchant-ships being the principal object, it was necessary to leave intervals; so that before

fore they could all pafs through, a conſiderable time was elapſed, during which Hawke had made his diſpoſitions; and, diſcovering that the eſcape of the convoy was their chief intention, made the ſignal for chaſing before the line was formed, and in half an hour, obſerving that the headmoſt ſhips were within a proper diſtance, he made a ſignal to engage, which was immediately obeyed. The Lion and Princeſs Louiſa began the engagement about a quarter before twelve, paſſing through a terrible fire, from the rear to the van of the French, who had the weather-gage; they were followed by the reſt of the ſhips as they came up; the Lion, Louiſa, Tilbury, Eagle, Windſor, and Yarmouth, behaved with the greateſt intrepidity, and the French received them with the utmoſt bravery. Hawke received ſeveral fires at a diſtance before he could get near enough to engage the Severn, which he ſoon ſilenced, and left to be taken up by the frigates aſtern. Then perceiving the Eagle and Edinburgh to be ſomewhat diſabled by the Tonant, kept as near the wind as poſſible in order to aſſiſt them; but the attempt was fruſtrated by the Eagle's falling twice on-board the Devonſhire, having had her wheel ſhot to pieces, all the men at it killed, and all her braces and bowlings gone, which forced the rear-admiral to leeward, and prevented his attacking either the Monarque or Tonant, within any diſtance to do execution. He however attempted both, eſpecially the latter; but while he was engaged with her, the breechings of all the lower-deck guns of the Devonſhire broke, and the guns flew fore and aft, which obliged her to ſhoot ahead, becauſe her upper and quarter-deck guns could not reach the Tonant. Captain Harland in the Tilbury, obſerving that the Tonant fired ſingle guns at the Devonſhire, with a view to diſmaſt her, tacked and ſtood in between her and the Devonſhire, and gave her a very ſmart fire. By this time the new breechings were all ſeized on-

board

board the Devonſhire, and ſhe was got almoſt along ſide of the Trident of ſixty-four guns, which the rear-admiral immediately engaged, and ſoon ſilenced by a very briſk fire; but obſerving the Kent, which appeared to have received little or no damage, at ſome diſtance aſtern of the Tonant, he flung out the ſignal for Captain Fox to make ſail ahead and engage her. The admiral, alſo, ſeeing ſome of his ſquadron at that time not ſo cloſely engaged as he could wiſh, made the ſignal for coming to a cloſe engagement; and ſoon after the Devonſhire got within muſket-ſhot of the Terrible, who ſtruck her colours at ſeven o'clock at night, as the Trident had done before. In the mean time Captain Saunders in the Yarmouth, lay two hours cloſely engaged with the Neptune, which had one hundred men killed, and one hundred and forty wounded, and had loſt almoſt all her maſts before ſhe ſtruck, which ſhe did about four o'clock. The Monarque, Fougueux, and Severn, ſurrendered about the ſame time.

During the heat of the action, the Intrepide tacked about towards the Tonant, and paſſed through the midſt of the Britiſh ſhips, firing on both ſides. As ſoon as ſhe came up with the Tonant, ſhe got under her ſtern, and thoſe two ſhips maintained a fight for half an hour with the Britiſh ſhips that aſſailed them. Captain Saunders in the Yarmouth, being enraged to ſee the French admiral and the Intrepide getting away, propoſed to Captain Saumarez in the Nottingham, and Captain Rodney in the Eagle, who were within hail, to purſue them. The meaſure was ſo perfectly conſonant with the inclinations of theſe two gallant officers, that the three Britiſh ſhips bore down immediately on the flying Frenchmen, and engaged them almoſt an hour; but Captain Saumarez being unfortunately killed by a ſhot from the Tonant, the Nottingham hauled her wind, which gave the French an opportunity of eſcaping under favour of the night; when

when they proceeded to a ſmall port one hundred leagues weſt of Uſhant, where they repaired their ſhattered ſhips, and ſoon after returned to Breſt, having loſt upwards of two hundred men on-board the Tonant and Intrepide.

As ſoon as the Terrible, Monarque, Neptune, Trident, Fougueux, and Severn, had ſtruck, and it beginning to grow very dark, Admiral Hawke thought proper to bring too for that night. And as it was not poſſible to diſpatch any ſhips after the convoy, he manned and victualled the Weazle ſloop, and ſent her expreſs to Commodore Legge, who commanded the ſquadron ſtationed about the leeward iſlands, with an account of what had happened, by which means ten of the merchantmen were taken.

The French had about eight hundred men killed and wounded, and three thouſand three hundred taken priſoners. Among their ſlain was M. Formentierre, who commanded the Neptune; and the French commodore received a violent contuſion on the right ſhoulder, and another on one of his legs. We had one hundred and fifty-four men killed, and five hundred and fifty-eight wounded; the only officer of diſtinction we loſt was the brave Captain Saumarez, who was firſt lieutenant to Commodore Anſon during the latter part of his voyage round the world; and being trained by that able commander, he became, what all the other officers who ſerved in that expedition have proved, a very ſkilful and a very brave ſeaman. A plain monument is erected to his memory in Weſtminſter Abbey.

Hawke arrived with his ſix prizes at Portſmouth on the 31ſt of October, and was ſoon after created a knight of the Bath for his gallant behaviour.

Our blunt Britiſh tar in the advice which he ſent to the admiralty of this action, ſays, "As the enemy's ſhips were large, they took a great deal of *drubbing*, and loſt all their maſts, excepting two, who had their foremaſts

foremasts left." George II. who was not so perfect a master of the English language as his present majesty, was pleased to ask Lord Chesterfield the meaning of the word *drubbing*. "The signification of the word," says Lord C. "is nothing more than—but here comes the Duke of Bedford, who is better able to explain it to your majesty than I am." His grace had some time before been severely horse-whipped on the horse-course at Litchfield, by a country attorney of the name of Humphreys.

Admiral Hawke in his dispatches expressed himself very pointedly with respect to the backwardness of Captain Fox, in the Kent, to engage, and desired that a court-martial might be appointed to enquire into his conduct. One was thereupon held at Portsmouth, on the 25th of November following. Captain Rodney, of the Eagle, deposed, that he was engaged between two fires; when Captain Fox could easily have come to his assistance, but did not. On the other hand, the captain called a number of witnesses who were unanimous in attesting, that he discovered every appearance of personal courage during the action. So contradictory was the evidence on both sides, that, while one swore that the Kent did not engage but at a great distance, the other went to prove that she engaged the Fougueux three quarters of an hour, within musket and pistol-shot, till she struck; that the Kent then shot ahead, and engaged the Tonant for half an hour, and carried away her main-top-mast; when the Kent forged ahead, her braces, preventers, and hoppers, being all shot away. The trial continued till the 21st of December, when the court gave their opinion that part of the charge was proved: that Captain Fox had been guilty of backing his mizen-top-sail, and leaving the Tonant, contrary to the 11th and 12th articles of war. They acquitted him at the same time of the charge of cowardice; but because he paid too much regard to the advice of his officers, contrary to his better

better judgment, the ſentence was, that he be diſmiſſed from the preſent command of the Kent: but his majeſty ſoon reſtored him to his poſt, and afterwards promoted him to the rank of admiral; while Mr. Matthews, whoſe courage never incurred ſuſpicion, ſtill laboured under a ſuſpenſion for that which had been ſucceſsfully practiſed in both theſe late actions, namely, *engaging the enemy without any regard to the line of battle.*

In the Mediterranean, Vice-admiral Medley blocked up the Spaniſh ſquadron in Carthagena; aſſiſted the Auſtrian general on the coaſt of Villafranca; and intercepted ſome of the ſuccours ſent from France to the aſſiſtance of the Genoeſe. At his death, which happened in the beginning of Auguſt, the command of that ſquadron devolved upon Rear-admiral Byng, who proceeded upon the ſame plan of operation. In the ſummer, two Britiſh ſhips of war, having under their convoy a fleet of merchant ſhips bound to North America, fell in with the Glorioſo, a Spaniſh ſhip of eighty guns, in the latitude of the Weſtern Iſles. She had ſailed from the Havannah, with an immenſe treaſure on-board, and muſt have fallen prize to the Engliſh ſhips, had each captain done his duty. Captain Erſkine in the Warwick, of ſixty guns, attacked her with great intrepidity, and fought until his ſhip was entirely diſabled; but being unſuſtained by his conſort, he was obliged to haul off, and the Glorioſo arrived in ſafety at Ferrol: there the ſilver was landed, and ſhe proceeded on her voyage for Cadiz, which however ſhe did not reach. In her way thither, on the 7th of October, ſhe was met by the King George, Prince Frederic, Duke, and Princeſs Amelia, privateers; the two former of whom engaged her for three hours, but without ſucceſs. The next morning, two large ſhips appeared, and proved to be Engliſh men of war. The firſt that came up was the Dartmouth, of fifty guns, Captain James Hamilton, a gallant youth,

who, notwithſtanding his inequality of force, engaged her without waiting to deliberate upon it; but in the heat of the action, his ſhip, accidentally taking fire, was blown up. The Prince Frederic inſtantly put out her boats, but could only ſave the lieutenant (Mr. Obrien) and eleven foremaſt-men. Favourable as this accident may ſeem to the Glorioſo, ſhe did not eſcape. An Engliſh ſhip of eighty guns, under the command of Captain Buckle, came up, and obliged the Spaniards to ſurrender, after a ſhort but vigorous engagement.

In the Eaſt-Indies, Commodore Griffiths protected Fort St. David's, and the other Britiſh ſettlements, from the deſigns which the French had formed againſt them, but his ſtrength was not ſufficient to enable him to undertake any enterprize of importance againſt the enemy; the miniſtry of England therefore, who were now rouſed from their long lethargy, reſolved to equip a freſh armament; which, in addition to the force already there, ſhould be able to retrieve the diſgrace which Great Britain had ſuffered in that quarter of the world, and to diſpoſſeſs the French of their valuable ſettlement of Pondicherry. For this purpoſe ſeveral independent companies were raiſed, and in the ſequel embarked on-board a ſtrong ſquadron, the command of which was given to Rear-admiral Boſcawen, an officer of tried bravery, and very ſuperior knowledge in naval affairs.

In the courſe of the year 1747, the Britiſh cruiſers were ſo alert and ſucceſsful, that they took 644 prizes from the French and Spaniards, whereas the loſs of Great Britain in the ſame time, did not exceed 550. Some of the moſt conſiderable engagements between ſingle ſhips during this year were the following:—In the month of Auguſt, the Viper ſloop fell in with the Hector, a South-ſea ſhip of ſix hundred tons, twenty-eight guns, and fifty-ſix men; thirty-four leagues N. E. of Uſhant; and, after engaging her an hour and a half,

half, she struck. She had about seven thousand pounds in specie on-board, but had put on shore at the Canaries two hundred thousand pounds.—In the same month, the Hon. Captain Barrington in the Bellona, fell in with a French outward-bound East-Indiaman, named the Duke de Chartres, three leagues from Ushant, when, after an engagement of two hours, she struck. She was laden with beef, flour, brandy, wine, and oil, and had on-board three mortars, and a great number of shells.—The Tiger, and Tigress privateers, of Bristol, the former of which was commanded by Captain Siex, fell in with the Conquerant, a Spanish privateer of twenty guns, and two hundred and twenty men, and two French privateers of twenty-six and twenty guns, which they obliged to strike, and brought them safe into port; for which service the merchants presented Captain Siex with a valuable piece of plate.—The Royal Family privateer of Bristol, took a valuable Spanish prize, called the Nympha, which, however, was forced ashore off Beachy-head in a violent storm; but the gold on-board her, with other valuable effects, were saved.

Although the parliament had now continued to sit no more than six years, yet his majesty thought fit to exercise the power with which the constitution had invested him, and to dissolve that house of commons, and call a new one. Accordingly on the 8th of June, a proclamation was issued for dissolving the parliament and chooſing another house of commons.

All the belligerent powers were by this time heartily tired of the war which had consumed an immensity of treasure, had been productive of so much mischief, and in the events of which all, in their turns, had found themselves disappointed. Immediately after the battle of Laffeldt, the King of France had, in a personal conversation with Sir John Ligonier, expressed his desire of a pacification; and afterwards his minister at the Hague presented a declaration on the same sub-

ject to the deputies of the ſtates-general. The ſignal ſucceſs of the Britiſh arms at ſea confirmed him in theſe ſentiments, which were likewiſe reinforced by a variety of other conſiderations. His finances were almoſt exhauſted, and his ſupplies from the Spaniſh Weſt-Indies rendered ſo precarious by the vigilance of the Britiſh cruiſers, that he could no longer depend upon their arrival. The trading part of his ſubjects had ſuſtained ſuch loſſes, that his kingdom was filled with bankruptcies; and the beſt part of his navy now contributed to ſtrengthen the fleets of his enemies. The election of a ſtadtholder had united the whole power of the ſtates-general againſt him, in taking the moſt reſolute meaſures for their own ſafety: his views in Germany were entirely fruſtrated by the election of the grand duke to the imperial throne, and the re-eſtabliſhment of peace between the houſes of Auſtria and Brandenburgh: the ſucceſs of his arms in Italy had not at all anſwered his expectation; and Genoa was become an expenſive ally. He had the mortification to ſee the commerce of Britain flouriſh in the midſt of war, while his own people were utterly impoveriſhed. The parliament of England granted, and the nation paid, ſuch incredible ſums as enabled their ſovereign not only to maintain invincible navies and formidable armies, but likewiſe to give ſubſidies to all the powers of Europe. He knew that a treaty of this kind was actually upon the anvil between his Britannic majeſty and the czarina, and he began to be apprehenſive of ſeeing an army of Ruſſians in the Netherlands. His fears from this quarter were not without foundation. In the month of November, the Earl of Hyndford, ambaſſador from the King of Great Britain at the court of Ruſſia, concluded a treaty of ſubſidy, by which the czarina engaged to hold in readineſs thirty thouſand men, and forty gallies, to be employed in the ſervice of the confederates on the firſt requiſition. The ſtates-general acceded to this agreement,

agreement, and even consented to pay one-fourth of the subsidy. His most christian majesty, moved by these considerations, made further advances towards an accommodation both at the Hague and in London; and the contending powers agreed to another congress, which was actually opened in March at Aix-la-Chapelle, where the Earl of Sandwich and Sir Thomas Robinson assisted as plenipotentiaries from the King of Great Britain.

The election for the new parliament had been conducted so as fully to answer the purposes of the Duke of Newcastle, and his brother Mr. Pelham, who had for some time wholly engrossed the administration. Both houses were assembled on the 10th of November, 1747; when Mr. Onslow was unanimously re-elected speaker of the commons. The session was opened as usual, by a speech from the throne, congratulating them on the signal successes of the British navy, and the happy alteration in the government of the united provinces. His majesty gave them to understand, that a congress would speedily be opened at Aix-la-Chapelle, to concert the means for a general pacification; and reminded them that nothing would more conduce to the success of this negociation than the vigour and unanimity of their proceedings. He received such addresses as the minister was pleased to dictate. Opposition now languished at their feet. The Duke of Bedford was become a courtier, and in a little time appointed secretary of state, in the room of the Earl of Chesterfield, who had lately executed that office which he now resigned; and the Earl of Sandwich was made first lord of the admiralty. This new house of commons, in imitation of the liberality of their predecessors, readily gratified all the requests of the government. They voted forty thousand seamen, forty-nine thousand land-forces, besides eleven thousand five hundred marines; the subsidies for the Queen of Hungary, the Czarina, the King of Sardinia, the Electors

Electors of Mentz and Bavaria, the Heſſians, and the Duke of Wolfenbuttle; the ſum of 235,749l. was granted to the province of New England, to re-imburſe them for the expenſe of reducing Cape Breton: 500,000l. were given to his majeſty for the vigorous proſecution of the war; and about 152,000l. to the Scottiſh claimants, in lieu of their juriſdiction. The ſupplies for the enſuing year fell very little ſhort of nine millions, of which the greater part was raiſed on loan by ſubſcription, chargeable on a new ſubſidy of poundage exacted from all merchandiſe imported into Great Britain. Immediately after the rebellion was ſuppreſſed, the legiſlature had eſtabliſhed ſome regulations in Scotland, which were thought neceſſary to prevent ſuch commotions for the future. The highlanders were diſarmed, an act paſſed, for aboliſhing their peculiarity of garb, which was ſuppoſed to keep up party diſtinctions, to encourage their martial diſpoſition, and preſerve the memory of the exploits atchieved by their anceſtors.

The ſeſſion was cloſed on the 13th of May, when the king declared to both houſes, that the preliminaries for a general peace were actually ſigned at Aix-la-Chapelle by the miniſters of Great Britain, France, and the United Provinces; and that the baſis of this accommodation was a general reſtitution of the conqueſts which had been made during the war. Immediately after the prorogation of parliament his majeſty ſet out for his German dominions, after having appointed a regency to rule the realm in his abſence.

The articles might have been made much leſs unfavourable to Great Britain and her allies, had the miniſtry made a proper uſe of the treaty with the czarina; and if the confederates had acted with more vigour and expedition in the beginning of the campaign. The Ruſſian auxiliaries might have been tranſported by ſea to Lubec, before the end of the preceding ſummer, in their own gallies which had been lying

lying ready for use since the month of July. Had this expedient been used, the Russian troops would have joined the confederate army before the conclusion of the last campaign. But this easy and expeditious method of conveyance was rejected for a march by land, of incredible length, and difficulty, which could not be begun before the month of January, nor accomplished till Midsummer. The operations of the campaign had been concerted at the Hague in January, by the respective ministers of the allies, who resolved to bring an army of one hundred and ninety thousand men into the Netherlands, in order to compel the French to abandon the barrier which they had conquered. The towns of Holland became the scenes of tumult and insurrection. The populace plundered the farmers of the revenue, abolished the taxes, and insulted the magistrates; so that the states-general, seeing their country on the brink of anarchy and confusion, authorised the Prince of Orange to make such alterations as he should see convenient. They presented him with a diploma, by which he was constituted hereditary stadtholder and captain-general of Dutch Brabant, Flanders, and the upper quarter of Guelderland; and the East-India company appointed him director and governor-general of their commerce and settlements in the Indies. Thus invested with an authority unknown to his ancestors, he exerted himself with equal industry and discretion in new modelling, augmenting, and assembling the troops of the republic. The confederates knew that the Count de Saxe had a design upon Maestricht; the Austrian General Bathiani made repeated remonstrances to the British ministry, entreating them to take speedy measures for the preservation of that fortress. He in the month of January proposed that the Duke of Cumberland should cross the sea, and confer with the Prince of Orange on the subject: he undertook, at the peril of his head, to cover Maestricht with seventy thousand

thouſand men from all attacks of the enemy: but his repreſentations ſeemed to have made very little impreſſion on thoſe to whom they were addreſſed. The Duke of Cumberland did not depart from England till towards the latter end of February: part of March was elapſed, before the tranſports ſailed from the Nore with the additional troops and artillery; and the laſt drafts from the foot guards were not embarked till the middle of Auguſt.

The different bodies of the confederate forces joined each other, and encamped in the neighbourhood of Ruremond, to the number of one hundred and ten thouſand men; and the French army inveſted Maeſtricht, without oppoſition, on the 3d of April. The garriſon conſiſted of Imperial and Dutch troops, under the conduct of the governor, Baron d'Aylva, who defended the place with extraordinary ſkill and reſolution. He annoyed the beſiegers in repeated ſallies; but they were determined to ſurmount all oppoſition, and proſecuted their approaches with incredible ardour. They aſſaulted the covered way, and there effected a lodgment, after an obſtinate diſpute, in which they loſt two thouſand of their beſt troops: but, next day they were entirely diſlodged by the gallantry of the garriſon. Theſe hoſtilities were ſuddenly ſuſpended, in conſequence of the preliminaries ſigned at Aix la-Chapelle. The plenipotentiaries agreed, that, for the glory of his chriſtian majeſty's arms, the town of Maeſtricht ſhould be ſurrendered to his general, on condition that it ſhould be reſtored with all the magazines and artillery. He accordingly took poſſeſſion of it on the 3d of May, when the garriſon marched out with all the honours of war; and a ceſſation of arms immediately enſued. By this time the Ruſſian auxiliaries, to the number of thirty-ſeven thouſand, commanded by Prince Repnin, had arrived in Moravia, where they were reviewed by their imperial majeſties; then they proceeded to the confines

of

of Franconia, where they were ordered to halt, after they had marched ſeven hundred miles ſince the beginning of the year. The French king declared, that ſhould they advance farther, he would demoliſh the fortifications of Maeſtricht and Bergen-op-Zoom. This diſpute was referred to the plenipotentiaries, who, in the beginning of Auguſt, concluded a convention, importing, that the Ruſſian troops ſhould return to their own country; and that the French King ſhould diſband an equal number of his forces. The ſeaſon being far advanced, the Ruſſians were provided with winter quarters in Bohemia and Moravia, where they continued till the ſpring, when they marched back to Livonia. In the mean time thirty-ſeven thouſand French troops were withdrawn from Flanders into Picardy, and the two armies remained quiet till the concluſion of the definitive treaty. The ſuſpenſion of arms was proclaimed in London, and in all the capitals of the contracting powers: orders were ſent to reſpective admirals in different parts of the world, to refrain from hoſtilities; and a communication of trade and intelligence was again opened between the nations which had been at variance. No material tranſaction diſtinguiſhed the campaign in Italy. The French and Spaniſh troops who had joined the Geneoſe in the territories of the republic, amounted to thirty thouſand men, under the direction of the Duke de Richelieu, who was ſent from France to aſſume that command, on the death of the Duke de Boufflers; while Marſhal Belleiſle, at the head of fifty thouſand men, covered the weſtern Riviera, which was threatened with an invaſion by forty thouſand Auſtrians and Piedmonteſe, under General Leutrum. At the ſame time General Brown, with a more numerous army, prepared to reenter the eaſtern Riviera, and re-commence the ſiege of Genoa. But theſe intended operations were prevented by an armiſtice, which took place as ſoon as the belligerent powers had acceded to the preliminaries.

At this time, Rear-admiral Knowles commanded in the Jamaica ſtation. He ſailed from Port-Royal harbour on the 13th of February, having on-board a detachment of two hundred and forty men, from the regiment commanded by Governor Trelawney, who accompanied the admiral in the expedition, with a deſign to attack the Spaniards at St. Jago de Cuba; but the winds continuing to blow from the north, the ſhips could not by any means approach that iſland; it was therefore agreed to make an attempt upon the French at Port Louis, on the ſouth ſide of Hiſpaniola, (or, as it is more generally called, St. Domingo,) where the admiral arrived on the 8th of March; and in the afternoon of the ſame day, his ſhips drew up within piſtol-ſhot of the walls. This place was defended by a ſtrong fort, mounting ſeventy-eight guns, and had ſix hundred men, commanded by M. de Chaleaunoye. The garriſon played furiouſly upon the ſhips all the time they were advancing, which was not returned until they had got into their ſtations, and were moored in a cloſe line ahead, when they returned the ſalute, and repaid their favours with intereſt. Captain Rentone, in the Strafford, was killed by a ſhot which took off his thigh, before the ſhip came to an anchor. The engagement now became warm on both ſides, in the midſt of which the beſieged ſent out a fireſhip with a deſign to drop on-board the Cornwall or Elizabeth; but, their intentions being obſerved, boats were manned, which towed her off, notwithſtanding the French muſketry played upon them very ſharply. They likewiſe took two veſſels, which were prepared for fireſhips. For three hours this furious cannonading between the ſhips and the fortreſs continued, when at length the French were unable any longer to ſtand to their guns, which were no ſooner ſilenced than the admiral ſummoned the governor to ſurrender. Terms of capitulation were ſettled that evening, by which the fort was ſurrendered to his Britannic majeſty, and the whole garriſon engaged

gaged not to ſerve againſt Great Britain or her allies for the term of one year; both ſoldiers and officers were permitted to march out with their arms, colours flying, and drums beating; but without cannon, mortars, or any ammunition whatever. All the officers were allowed to carry ſuch baggage as they pledged their honour for being their own, but ſubject to inſpection if that ſhould be thought neceſſary. All negroes and mulattoes that ſerved the officers were ſecured to them, but all others that were in the fort were to be delivered up as the property of the captors, together with the fort, and all the cannon, munitions, and appurtenance. Theſe ſtipulations being agreed to, the Britiſh troops marched into the town that evening. The garriſon had one hundred and ſixty men killed and wounded; the loſs on-board the ſhips was only ſeventy killed and wounded. Amongſt the dead was the brave Captain Rentone, as already mentioned, and Captain Cuſt; the latter a volunteer in the expedition. The rear-admiral found three ſhips, a ſnow, and three privateer ſloops, in the harbour, all of which he took poſſeſſion of; but, as the fort was deemed of little uſe to the preſent poſſeſſors, the admiral gave orders it ſhould be blown up.

The town of St. Louis was built in the beginning of the laſt century, and lies at the bottom of a bay which forms an indifferent harbour; for the anchorage is very unſafe during the equinoxial gales. The French poſſeſſions on the iſland of St. Domingo extend one hundred and eighty leagues along the ſea-coaſt, looking towards the north, the weſt, and the ſouth. The ſouthern parts extend from Cape Tiburon to the point of Cape Beata, which takes in about fifty leagues of the coaſt, which is more or leſs confined by a ridge of mountains, which run length-ways from eaſt to weſt along the whole iſland.

Admiral Knowles, after having ſettled the conditions for the ſecurity of the town, proceeded to put in execution his firſt deſign againſt St. Jago de Cuba; and

it ſhould ſeem that new ſentiments had been adopted concerning the manner of attacking that ſettlement ſince Admiral Vernon commanded in the Weſt Indies: then it was thought impregnable from the ſea, (ſee page 220;) but now it was reſolved to attack it with the fleet. On the 5th of April Admiral Knowles arrived with his fleet off the harbour. Captain Dent, of the Plymouth, being the ſenior captain, laid claim to the poſt of honour, and therefore inſiſted on going in firſt, he was ſeconded by the Cornwall. As ſoon as he began to advance, he diſcovered a boom laid acroſs the mouth of the harbour, on the other ſide of which two large ſhips and two ſmall ones were drawn up; theſe were filled with combuſtibles, and ready to be fired and ſent in among the Britiſh fleet, if they ſhould break the boom and enter the harbour. In this ſituation our ſhips fired ſome broadſides at the caſtle, and received ſome ſhot from thence, which killed one or two men on-board the Cornwall. Captain Dent ſeeing the deſperate nature of the ſervice in which he was engaged, called his officers together to have their opinions concerning the meaſures proper to be taken. It appeared to them that the ſhips would be expoſed to the moſt imminent danger if they attempted to break the chain: in conſequence of which they relinquiſhed the attempt, and the rear-admiral returned to Jamaica with the fleet.

The admiral was highly diſpleaſed at the conduct of Captain Dent, (although nothing but the moſt unwarrantable raſhneſs could have urged him on to ſacrifice the lives of his men, and to riſk the loſs of his ſhip by puſhing forward;) he therefore exhibited a charge againſt him to the board of admiralty when he returned to England; in conſequence of which, Dent was tried by a court-martial for miſconduct, but was honourably acquitted.

The vigilance of Admiral Knowles, whilſt on the Jamaica ſtation, ſecured the trade of that iſland from all

all annoyance; at the same time Commodore Pocock, who succeeded Legge on the leeward station, not only protected the trade to the Caribbee Islands, but blocked up the French in Martinico, and reduced them to great extremity. Whilst Admiral Knowles was thus discharging his duty as an active officer, his grand object was to intercept the Spanish plate fleet from la Vera Cruz, in its way to the Havannah, for which purpose he cruised with six ships of war off the Tortudas's bank. In the mean time, the Lenox, Captain Holmes, sailed from Jamaica on the 25th of August, with a convoy of merchantmen for England. The rapidity of the current prevented their passing through the windward passage, so that they were obliged to bear away for the gulph of Florida. Whilst they were pursuing this course, on the 29th of September in the morning, they descried seven sail of large ships bearing down upon them, which proved to be the Spanish fleet commanded by Admiral Reggio. Captain Holmes made a signal for his convoy to save themselves in the best manner they could, whilst he stood towards the enemy; but when it grew dark, he spread all his sail to reach Admiral Knowles, being acquainted with the station he had chosen. The next morning he joined him, and gave advice of what had happened, whereupon the rear-admiral made sail to meet the Spaniards, and came up with them on the 1st of October in the morning, between the Tortugas and the Havannah. At sight of each other both squadrons prepared for an engagement.

The Spaniards were much superior to the Englifh both in men and guns. The Spanish admiral immediately formed his line of battle, the Invincible leading the van, followed by the Conquestadore; the Africa and Dragon in the centre; the New Spain and Royal Family in the rear; and the Galga frigate without the line. Rear-admiral Knowles had formed his disposition, by placing the Tilbury in the van, followed

lowed by the Strafford; the Cornwall and Lenox in the centre; the Warwick and Canterbury in the rear; and the Oxford out of the line. Admiral Reggio waited for Admiral Knowles, who had the advantage of the wind, but did not make uſe of it till about two o'clock, when the Spaniards began to fire, though at too great a diſtance to do execution; but ſoon after the Engliſh admiral made the ſignal for the Tilbury to bear down upon the enemy; the Strafford followed her; the Cornwall edged down cloſe upon the Spaniſh vice-admiral; the Lenox bore down on the Dragon, and about half an hour after two the action began, with a briſk fire on both ſides, though the Spaniards had greatly the advantage, the Warwick and Canterbury being ſo far aſtern that they could not fire a ſhot for above two hours. Rear-admiral Knowles, being got within piſtol-ſhot of Admiral Reggio, diſcharged all his artillery and muſquetry at the Africa, together with eight cohorns; but was ſo warmly received by the Spaniards, that after laying half an hour along ſide of the Africa, he was obliged to fall aſtern of his own ſquadron, having loſt his main-top-maſt, and the yard ſhot in two, which rendered him unable to come again into the line. So favourable a beginning flattered the Spaniards with a complete victory; but the Conqueſtadore, having her main top-maſt-ties ſhot away, was obliged to ſail aſtern of the Spaniſh ſquadron, where Admiral Knowles, who had now refitted his ſhip, bore down and attacked her. The action was long and bloody, in which St. Juſto, the Spaniſh captain, was killed; but the ſecond captain, who made a noble defence, did not ſurrender the ſhip, till the granada ſhells had ſet her on fire three ſeveral times, when ſhe ſtruck. At the time that the Cornwall retired out of the line, the Lenox ſhot up into her place, abreaſt of the Spaniſh admiral, where Captain Holmes was hotly engaged; having no leſs than three of the Spaniſh ſhips firing upon him above an hour; when the

the Warwick and Canterbury came up very seasonably to his assistance. The action was now closer and warmer than ever, and continued so till eight in the evening, when the Spaniards edged away towards the Havannah, which was but a small distance from them: the British ships kept close to them, and did great execution; but the Spaniards at last got safe into port, except the Conquestadore, which was taken, and the Africa, which, having lost her masts, was forced ashore by the Lenox, where she was afterwards burnt.

The Spaniards had eighty-six men killed, and one hundred and ninety-seven wounded in the battle; among the former were Don Thomas de St. Jesto, captain of the Conquestadore; Don Vincent Quintana, second captain of the Africa; with Don Pedro Garrecocha, the captain of the Galga: and among the latter was Admiral Reggio, with fourteen other officers. The English had fifty-nine men killed, and one hundred and twenty wounded, but no officer among them.

The British admiral, after the destruction of the Africa, appeared off the Havannah, with the Conquestadore, which now made one ship in his fleet, braving his enemy in their harbour. Whilst he continued here, an advice-boat from Old Spain fell into his hands. The information which they received from this ship spread a general dejection through the fleet, as it brought the unwelcome news that the preliminary articles for a general peace were signed, and that hostilities were to cease. The prospect of possessing the Spanish galleons, now that Admiral Reggio and his fleet were defeated, was so very promising, that every individual had in his own mind reduced it to a certainty; and it was supposed to have on-board forty millions of dollars. Their chagrin was further heightened by the intervention of night having prevented them from doing further execution on the Spanish men of war, during the engagement, which most probably

bly would have been either taken or deſtroyed, by two hours further continuance of day-light.

From theſe cauſes aroſe thoſe ill humours and bickerings that afterwards broke out among the captains, and between them and their admiral. Indeed, when the conduct of the rear-admiral afterwards came to be enquired into by a court-martial, his judges gave it as their opinion, that while Admiral Knowles was ſtanding for the enemy, he might by a different diſpoſition of his ſquadron, have begun the attack with ſix ſhips as early in the day as four of them were engaged. He was likewiſe cenſured for continuing his flag on-board the Cornwall after ſhe was diſabled, when he ſhould have immediately ſhifted it to ſome other ſhip, in order to have conducted and directed during the action the operation of the ſquadron entruſted to his care and conduct; but the fulleſt proof was given of his perſonal courage. This action cloſing the naval tranſactions of the war, we ſhall now conduct our readers to the other ſection of the globe.

When Commodore Griffin arrived in the Eaſt-Indies he ſuperſeded his inactive predeceſſor, and found himſelf at the head of a formidable ſquadron, conſiſting of the York, Princeſs Mary, Exeter, and Medway, of ſixty guns; the Harwich, Preſton, and Winchelſter of fifty; the Eltham, Pearl, and Medway's Prize, of forty; and the Lively, of twenty guns. With this force he blocked up Pondicherry during the whole of the month of Auguſt, 1746, and by his diſpoſitions prevented their receiving any ſupplies for a conſiderable time afterwards. He alſo burnt the Neptune man of war in Madras road; to conpenſate for which the French took the Princeſs Amelia, one of the ſhips belonging to the Engliſh Eaſt-India company, who not knowing the capture of Madras, put in there, the French having conſtantly kept the Engliſh colours flying, in order to draw in ſhips of that nation.

tion. This ſtratagem had well nigh deceived many more, who with great difficulty effected their eſcape.

The whole of the year 1747 was paſſed without any material occurrences in the eaſt. The Engliſh commodore made no attempt either to reduce Pondicherry, or to recover Madras. The French had been very aſſiduous in repairing the fortifications of the former of theſe places, where they then mounted one hundred and eighty cannon; they had alſo erected ſix additional forts to flank the exterior works: the magazines and arſenals were well provided; and the garriſon, with the military Indians, formed a body of four thouſand five hundred men. Madras was alſo greatly ſtrengthened, ſo as to be capable of withſtanding any force which the Engliſh had in thoſe parts to bring againſt it; ſo that every thing remained quiet, expecting the arrival of Admiral Boſcawen, when the tempeſt of war was again to burſt forth. At length, on the 29th of July, 1748, this brave officer arrived at Fort St. David.

Admiral Boſcawen in his paſſage had made an attempt to reduce the iſland of Mauritius, or Iſle de France. This ſettlement lies in the Indian ocean, between the 19th and 20th degrees of latitude, and about one hundred leagues to the eaſt of Madagaſcar. It was firſt diſcovered by the Portugueſe; after them the Dutch took poſſeſſion of it, but abandoned it after they became poſſeſſed of the Cape of Good Hope; they gave it the name of Mauritius, in honour of Prince Maurice their ſtadtholder. It then remained uninhabited until the French landed there in 1720. As the commerce from the port of l'Orient to the Eaſt-Indies became conſiderable, it was found neceſſary to eſtabliſh a refreſhing place for the ſhips during their long paſſage; this occaſioned a colony to be ſent to the Mauritius; and that Bourdonnois, whom we have ſeen reduce Madras, was the man choſen, in 1735, to eſtabliſh the ſettlement.

On the 23d of July, Admiral Boſcawen appeared before this iſland, his inſtructions from the board of admiralty being to attempt the reduction of it in his way to the Coromandel coaſt. He found the French every where prepared to receive him at the entrance of the harbour, which is ſituated on the eaſtern ſide of the iſland, the ſituation of which is naturally well ſuited to repel an enemy. The admiral finding that every avenue which was favourable for landing, was guarded by a battery, ordered out the maſters of the ſix line of battle ſhips which he commanded, to reconnoitre the weſtern ſide of the iſland. They reported that a reef of rocks ran all along about twenty yards from the ſhore, which rendered it impoſſible for boats to approach it. Theſe were fatal obſtacles to a deſcent, eſpecially as the wind conſtantly blew out of the harbour, acroſs the mouth of which a large ſhip of two tier of guns lay with her broadſide pointed. A council of war, compoſed of principal ſea and land officers, was then called, in which it was reſolved to ſend three ten-oared boats, and to endeavour to ſurprize and get a priſoner from the ſhore, who could inform them of the ſtrength of the enemy. The attempt was accordingly made, but it proved ineffectual. The next morning the council again met. When it appeared to them, that as the reduction of the iſland of Mauritius was not the chief deſign of the expedition, and as it appeared to be ſo well defended, an attack muſt be made with conſiderable loſs; they were therefore of opinion that no attempt ſhould be made on the place, but that the ſquadron ſhould proceed to the coaſt of Coromandel, ſo as to begin the operations there before the monſoons ſhifted.

Admiral Boſcawen loſt no time in undertaking the ſiege of Pondicherry. A camp was formed about a mile from fort St. David, where the troops were reinforced by the marines ſerving in the ſquadron of Rear-

Rear-admiral Griffin, by which the army conſiſted of three thouſand ſix hundred and ninety ſoldiers, near four hundred to ſerve the artillery, and two thouſand Indians. Theſe the admiral propoſed to march by land to Pondicherry, while the command of the ſhips was intruſted to Captain Liſle, of the Vigilant, who was directed to anchor with his whole ſquadron two miles to the ſouth of the place. Captain Pawlet, of the Exeter, had been ſent before to anchor off the town, with the Chicheſter, Pembroke, and Swallow ſloop. Aſſiſted by theſe ſhips, he was directed to take the ſoundings wherever his boats could come, to determine how near the ſhips might approach the town. Theſe meaſures being taken, all communication by ſea with Pondicherry was effectually cut off. All this time the French ſquadron was cruiſing in the ſtraits of Malacca.

On the 8th of Auguſt, the army began to march, and approached the town without being much annoyed by the enemy. The garriſon of Pondicherry conſiſted of two thouſand European troops, and three thouſand Indians. Dupleix, who was governor of the place, had taken every precaution to ſtrengthen it both towards the ſea, and where it could be approached by land. As the place had become conſiderable ſince the Dutch made an eaſy conqueſt of it fifty years before, ſo due attention had been paid to render it a place of defence. As ſoon as Boſcawen approached the town, he detached his grenadiers and piquets with a body of Indians to attack the fort of Aria Coupan, which lies about three miles from Pondicherry, on the ſide of a river from whence it is named. In this attempt they loſt Major Goodyer, the commanding officer of the artillery, whoſe knowledge and experience were eſſentially neceſſary to conduct their approaches. On the 13th of Auguſt, the whole army marched to join the detachment; and in the afternoon eleven hundred ſeamen, whom the

admiral had cauſed to be diſciplined on-board, and exerciſed in platoons, under the command of Captain Lloyd, were landed; theſe mounted guard, and did all other duties with the regular troops. Four twelve and four eighteen-pounders being landed, on the 16th at night, a battery of four guns was opened againſt the fort, but through the unſkilfulneſs of the engineers it did no execution. On the 18th another battery, erected by the artillery officers, began to play with great ſucceſs. The French made a deſperate ſally, with a view to deſtroy this battery; and having with them ſixty European horſe, they at firſt threw the Britiſh advanced guard into confuſion, but theſe ſoon rallied, and forced the French to retreat with conſiderable loſs, having made the commanding officer of the horſe a priſoner. Soon after this repulſe, one of the French batteries blew up, and deſtroyed one hundred and twenty of their men. The beſiegers now puſhed on their attack with redoubled ſpirit, until at length the fort blew up alſo, immediately upon which the troops ruſhed in.

The admiral was now poſſeſſed of an important poſt, which he loſt no time in repairing. On the 28th he began to land trenching-tools, and other neceſſaries, to break ground before the place, which was begun on the 20th at night. On the 1ſt of September, the French made a ſally upon the beſiegers' intrenchments, with five hundred Europeans and eight hundred Indians, but were repulſed by the advanced guard, which conſiſted only of one hundred men, with conſiderable loſs. In this action M. Paradis, their chief engineer, was mortally wounded. Theſe ſucceſſes encouraged the hopes of the beſiegers; but the ſlow progreſs which the engineers made in completing the batteries, fatally retarded the operations. On the 25th of September the batteries began to play on the town, but the French had raiſed three faſcine batteries, which played on the trenches of the beſiegers

ſiegers with conſiderable effect: they were indeed indefatigable in uſing every poſſible means for the defence of the place: by opening ſluices they had formed an inundation in the front of the Britiſh lines, which effectually obſtructed their further approaches.

Whilſt the ſiege was thus carried on by land, a bomb-ketch was brought in, which played upon the citadel night and day. The French were not backward in returning theſe ſalutes; and the engineers preſently got the length of the veſſel ſo exactly, that ſhe was obliged to diſcontinue her fire in the day time, and change her ſtation. The obſtinate defence made by the beſieged, determined the admiral to bring the whole fleet into action; accordingly Captain Leſlie was ordered to extend the men of war before the town, in line of battle, and pour their broadſides into the place. At firſt the French returned their fire very briſkly, but ſoon diſcontinued it, while they plied the batteries warmly on the land ſide. Captain Adams, of the Harwich, was killed in this attack, having his thigh ſhot away by a cannon ball.

As the fire from the ſhips was found to be ineffectual, and the body of water with which the town was environed, rendered it impoſſible to ſtorm the place; after every method had been tried to reduce it, without effect, the admiral called a council of war. It appeared that the army was daily weakened by ſickneſs, brought on by the exceſſive fatigue that the troops endured; the monſoons and rainy ſeaſon were approaching, and daily expected, when the ſiege muſt neceſſarily be raiſed, and that with the loſs of the artillery and ſtores. It was farther to be apprehended, that the rivers would thereby be rendered impaſſable, and the retreat of the army to Fort St. David be cut off; beſides which, the fleet would be expoſed to the moſt imminent danger of periſhing on the coaſt. For theſe reaſons it was unanimouſly reſolved to embark the ſtores and cannon, and raiſe the ſiege. On the

6th

6th of October the army ſtruck their tents and began to march back to Fort St. David, the ſeamen and the artillery having been previouſly re-embarked on-board the fleet. Such was the unſucceſsful iſſue of this expedition againſt Pondicherry, in which upwards of one thouſand men were loſt.

The moſt conſiderable captures made by the Engliſh during the year 1748, were as follow: Seventeen French ſhips richly laden from the Levant, taken by Admiral Byng's ſquadron. The Magnanime, a French man of war, of ſeventy four guns, and ſix hundred and eighty-ſix men, commanded by the Marquis d'Albert, fell in with the Nottingham, Captain Harland, and the Portland, Captain Stevens, to whom after ſix hours engagement ſhe ſtruck, having forty-five men killed and one hundred and five wounded; the Nottingham had ſixteen killed and eighteen wounded, the Portland only four wounded. The Jaſon, a French Eaſt-India ſhip, of ſeven hundred tons, thirty guns, and one hundred and eighty men, from Port l'Orient to Pondicherry, with ſtore and ammunition, and eight caſes of ſilver, taken by the Saliſbury man of war, Captain Edgcombe, and brought into Plymouth. The Grand Biche, a French privateer, of twenty-two guns, and one hundred and ſixty men, which had been very active during the whole war, was taken by the Bellona man of war, Captain Campbell. The Tereſa, a Spaniſh regiſter ſhip, from the Havannah, with ſixty thouſand dollars in ſpecie; beſides a very rich cargo, taken near Cadiz, by the Tiger privateer of Briſtol, Captain Seix. The St. Victoire, of three hundred and fifty tons, ſixteen guns, ſix-pounders, and forty-nine men, with wine, brandy, and bale goods, from Bourdeaux to Canada, taken by the Prince of Orange privateer of Guernſey, of eight carriage-guns, and fifty men, Captain Viſconte, after a fight of ſeven hours, at the ſecond boarding: the captain received a muſket ſhot through the thigh, and his lieutenant four

four balls in his thigh, at the firſt broad-ſide, but both kept the deck and fought to the end; the privateer had two men killed and five wounded. A South-Sea ſhip valued at 60,000l. taken by two Rhode Iſland privateers; another Spaniſh prize, valued at 30,000l. was taken by the Port Mahon man of war, and carried into Boſton.

The Spaniards, during the war, loſt one thouſand two hundred and forty-nine ſhips, and the French two thouſand one hundred and eighty-five; amounting in the whole to three thouſand four hundred and thirty-four. The Engliſh loſt one thouſand three hundred and ſixty ſhips, taken by the Spaniards, and one thouſand eight hundred and ſeventy-eight, taken by the French; amounting together to three thouſand two hundred and thirty-eight, being one hundred and ninety-ſix leſs in number than their captures during the whole courſe of the war. Several of the Spaniſh prizes were immenſely rich; many of the French were of conſiderable value; and, although the Engliſh loſt ſome ſhips of great value, yet it has been computed that Great Britain gained on the balance near two millions during the war. So that, although the government was impoveriſhed thereby, individuals were enriched.

The plenipotentiaries ſtill continued at Aix-la-Chapelle, diſcuſſing the articles of the definitive treaty, which was at length concluded and ſigned Oct. 7, 1748. It was founded on former treaties, which were now expreſsly confirmed, from that of Weſtphalia to the laſt concluded at London and Vienna. The contracting parties agreed, That all priſoners on each ſide ſhould be mutually releaſed, without ranſom, and all conqueſts reſtored: That the duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guaſtalla, ſhould be ceded as a ſettlement to the infant Don Philip, and the heirs male of his body; but in caſe of his aſcending the throne of Spain, or of the two Sicilies, or his dying without

without male-iſſue, that they ſhould revert to the houſe of Auſtria: That the King of Great Britain ſhould, immediately after the ratification of this treaty, ſend two perſons of rank and diſtinction, to reſide in France, as hoſtages, until reſtitution ſhould be made of Cape Breton, and all the other conqueſts which his Britannic majeſty ſhould have atchieved in the Eaſt or Weſt Indies, before or after the preliminaries were ſigned: That the aſſiento contract, with the article of the annual ſhip, ſhould be confirmed for four years, during which the enjoyment of that privilege was ſuſpended ſince the commencement of the preſent war: That Dunkirk ſhould remain fortified on the land ſide, and towards the ſea continue on the footing of former treaties. All the contracting powers became guarantees to the King of Pruſſia for the duchy of Sileſia, and the county of Glatz, as he at preſent poſſeſſed them; and they likewiſe engaged to ſecure the Empreſs Queen of Hungary and Bohemia in poſſeſſion of her hereditary dominions, according to the pragmatic ſanction. The other articles regulated the forms and times fixed for this mutual reſtitution, as well as for the termination of hoſtilities in different parts of the world. But the right of the Engliſh ſubjects to navigate in the American ſeas, without being ſubject to ſearch, was not once mentioned, though this claim was the original ſource of the differences between Great Britain and Spain: nor were the limits of Acadia aſcertained, although it had been agreed by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, that commiſſioners ſhould be appointed within two years, who ſhould finally determine that matter. No ſuch adjuſtment had been made, and this point, with all other matters of diſpute between the two nations, were again referred to the ſame vague and imaginary deciſion. Conſidering the ſuperficial manner, in which queſtions of the utmoſt importance were decided upon, the

peace

peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was rather a ſuſpenſion of arms than the reſtoration of ſtable tranquillity.

Yet this peace, however inglorious it might appear to thoſe few who underſtood the intereſts and felt for the honour of their country, was nevertheleſs not unwelcome to the nation in general. The Britiſh miniſtry will always find it more difficult to ſatisfy the people at the end of a ſucceſsful campaign than at the concluſion of an unfortunate war. The Engliſh are impatient of miſcarriage and diſappointment, and too apt to be intoxicated with victory. At this period they were tired of the burthens, and ſick of the diſgraces, to which they had been expoſed in the courſe of ſeven tedious campaigns. They had ſuffered conſiderable loſſes and interruption in the article of commerce, which was the ſource of their national opulence and power: they knew it would neceſſarily be clogged with additional duties, for the maintenance of a continental war, and the ſupport of foreign ſubſidies; and they drew very faint preſages of future ſucceſs either from the conduct of their allies, or the capacity of their commanders. To a people influenced by theſe conſiderations, the reſtoration of a free trade, the reſpite from the anxiety and ſuſpence which the proſecution of a war never fails to engender, and the proſpect of a ſpeedy deliverance from diſcouraging reſtraint and oppreſſive impoſitions, were advantages that ſweetened the bitter draught of a diſhonourable treaty, and induced the majority of the nation to acquieſce in the peace, not barely without murmuring, but even with ſome degree of ſatisfaction and applauſe.

Immediately after the exchange of ratifications at Aix-la-Chapelle, the armies were broken up: the allies in the Netherlands withdrew their ſeveral proportions of troops; the French began to evacuate Flanders; and the Engliſh forces were re-embarked for their own country. His Britannic majeſty returned from his

German dominions, in November, having landed near Margate, in Kent, after a dangerous paſſage; and on the 29th of the ſame month the opened the ſeſſion of parliament with a ſpeech, acquainting them, that the definitive treaty of peace was at length ſigned by all the parties concerned: that he had made the moſt effectual proviſion for ſecuring the rights and intereſts of his own ſubjects; and procured for his allies the beſt conditions, which, in the preſent ſituation of affairs, could be obtained. He ſaid, he had found a general good diſpoſition in all parties to bring the negotiation to a happy concluſion; and obſerved, that we might promiſe ourſelves a long enjoyment of the bleſſings of peace. Finally, after having remarked that times of tranquillity were the proper ſeaſons for leſſening the national debt, and ſtrengthening the kingdom againſt future events, he recommended to the commons the improvement of the public revenue, the maintenance of a conſiderable naval force, the advancement of commerce, and the cultivation of the arts of peace.

The nation had reaſon to expect an immediate mitigation in the article of annual expence, conſidering the number of troops and ſhips of war which had been reduced at the ratification of the treaty; but they were diſagreeably undeceived in finding themſelves again loaded with very extraordinary impoſitions, for the payment of a vaſt debt which government had contracted in the courſe of the war, notwithſtanding the incredible aids granted by parliament. The committee of ſupply eſtabliſhed four points of conſideration, in their deliberations concerning the ſums neceſſary to be raiſed; namely, for fulfilling the engagements which the parliament had entered into with his majeſty, and the ſervices undertaken for the ſucceſs of the war; for diſcharging debts contracted by government; for making good deficiencies; and for defraying the current expence of the year. It appeared,

that

that the nation owed 44,000l. to the Elector of Bavaria; above 30,000l. to the Duke of Brunſwick; the like ſum to the Landgrave of Heſſe Caſſel; and near 9,000l. to the Elector of Mentz. The Queen of Hungary claimed an arrear of 100,000l. The city of Glaſgow, in North Britain, preſented a petition, praying to be reimburſed the ſum of 10,000l. extorted from that corporation by the ſon of the pretender, during the rebellion; 112,000l. were owing to the forces in North America and the Eaſt-Indies; beſides near half a million due on extraordinary expences incurred by the land forces in America, Flanders, and North Britain, by the office of ordnance, and other ſervices of the laſt year, to which the parliamentary proviſion did not extend. The remaining debt of the ordnance amounted to above 230,000l. but the navy bills could not be diſcharged for leſs than 4,000,000. An addition of 2,374,333l. 15s. 2d. was alſo required for the current ſervice of the year. In a word; the whole annual ſupply exceeded 8,000,000l. ſterling. The number of ſeamen for 1749, was reduced to ſeventeen thouſand, and that of the land forces to eighteen thouſand eight hundred and fifty-ſeven.

Every article of expence, however, was warmly diſputed by the anti-courtiers; eſpecially the demand of the Queen of Hungary, which was deemed unreaſonably exorbitant and rapacious, conſidering the ſeas of blood which we had ſhed, and the immenſity of treaſure we had exhauſted, for her benefit: and ſurely the ſubjects of this nation had ſome reaſon to complain of an indulgence of this nature, granted to a power which they had literally ſnatched from the brink of ruin—a power whoſe quarrel they had eſpouſed with a degree of enthuſiaſm that did much more honour to their gallantry than to their diſcretion—a power which kept aloof, with a ſtatelineſs of pride peculiar to herſelf and family, and beheld her Britiſh auxiliaries

fighting her battles at their own expence: while ſhe ſquandered away, in the idle pageantry of barbarous magnificence, thoſe ample ſubſidies which they advanced in order to maintain her armies, and furniſh out her proportion of the war.

But the moſt violent conteſt aroſe on certain regulations which the miniſtry wanted to eſtabliſh in two bills, relating to the ſea and land ſervice. The firſt, under the title of a bill for amending, explaining, and reducing into one act of parliament, the laws relating to the navy, was calculated ſolely with a view of ſubjecting half pay officers to martial law—a deſign which not only furniſhed the oppoſition with a plauſable handle for accuſing the miniſters, as intending to encroach upon the conſtitution, in order to extend the influence of the crown; but alſo alarmed the ſea-officers to ſuch a degree, that they aſſembled to a conſiderable number, with a view to deliberate upon the proper means of defending their privileges and liberties from invaſion. The reſult of their conſultations was a petition to the houſe of commons, ſubſcribed by three admirals and forty-ſeven captains, not members of parliament, repreſenting, That the bill in agitation contained ſeveral clauſes, tending to the injury and diſhonour of all naval officers, as well as to the detriment of his majeſty's ſervice; and that the laws already in force had been always found effectual for ſecuring the ſervice of officers on half-pay upon the moſt preſſing occaſions: they, therefore, hoped, that they ſhould not be ſubjected to new hardſhips and diſcouragements; and begged to be heard by their counſel, before the committee of the whole houſe, touching ſuch parts of the bill as they apprehended would be injurious to themſelves and the other officers of his majeſty's navy. This petition was preſented to the houſe by Sir John Norris, and the motion for its being read was ſeconded by Sir Peter Warren, whoſe character was univerſally eſteemed and beloved

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in the nation. This measure had like to have produced very serious consequences. Many commanders and subalterns had repaired to the admiralty, and threatened, in plain terms, to throw up their commissions in case the bill should pass into a law; and a general ferment was begun among all the subordinate members of the navy. At length the minister thought proper to drop the projected article, subjecting the reformed officers of the navy to the jurisdictions of court martials; and the bill, being also softened in other particulars during its passage through the upper house, at length received the royal assent.

The flame which this act had kindled, was rather increased than abated on the appearance of a new army mutiny-bill, replete with divers innovations, tending to augment the influence of the crown, as well as the authority and power of a military jurisdiction. By this bill a power was vested in any commander in chief, to revise and correct any legal sentance of a court-martial, by which the members of such a court, corresponding with the nature of a civil jury, were rendered absolutely useless, and the commander in a great measure absolute; for he had not only the power of summoning such officers as he might choose to sit on any trial, a prerogative unknown to any civil court of judicature, but he was also at liberty to review and alter the sentence; so that a man was subject to two trials for the same offence, and the commander in chief was judge both of guilt and punishment. By the final clause of this bill, martial law was extended to all officers on half-pay; and the same arguments which had been urged against this article in the navy bill, were now repeated, and reinforced with redoubled fervour. Many reasons were now offered to prove, that the half-pay was allotted for past service; and the opponants of the bill affirmed, that such an article by augmenting the dependants of the crown, might be very dangerous to the constitution.

tion. On the other hand, the partisans of the ministry asserted, that the half-pay was granted as a retaining-fee; and that, originally, all those who enjoy this indulgence were deemed to be in actual service, consequently subject to martial law. All the disputed articles of the bill being sustained on the shoulders of a great majority, it was conveyed to the upper house, where it excited another violent contest. Upon the question whether officers on half-pay had not been subject to martial law, the judges were consulted and divided in their sentiments. The Earl of Bath declared his opinion, that martial law did not extend to reformed officers: and opened all the sluices of his ancient eloquence. But, notwithstanding the spirited opposition of this nobleman, and some attempts to insert additional clauses, the bill, having undergone a few inconsiderable amendments, passed by a considerable majority.

Immediately after the mutiny bill had passed the lower house, another fruitless effort was made by the opposition. The danger of a standing army, on whose virtue the constitution of Great Britain seemed to depend, did not fail to alarm the minds of many, who were attached to the liberties of their country, and gave birth to a scheme, which, if executed, would have enabled the legislature to established a militia, that must have answered many national purposes, and acted as a constitutional bulwark against the excesses and ambition of a military standing force, under the immediate influence of government. The scheme, which patriotism conceived, was, in all probability, adopted by party. A bill was brought in, limiting the time beyond which no soldier, or non-commissioned officer, should be compelled to continue in the service. Had this limitation taken place, such a rotation of soldiers would have ensued among the common people, as in France, that in a few years every peasant, labourer, and inferior tradesman, in the kingdom,

dom, would have underſtood the exerciſe of arms; and perhaps the people in general would have concluded, that a ſtanding army was altogether unneceſſary. A project of this nature could not, for obvious reaſons, be agreeable to the adminiſtration, and therefore the bill was rendered abhortive; for, after having been twice read, it was poſtponed from time to time, till the parliament was prorogued, and never appeared in the ſequel. Such were the chief ſubjects of debate between the miniſtry and the oppoſition, compoſed of the prince's ſervants, and the remains of the country party, this laſt being headed by Lord Strange, ſon of the Earl of Derby, and Sir Francis Daſhwood: the former a nobleman of diſtinguiſhed abilities, keen, penetrating, eloquent and ſagacious; the other frank, ſpirited, and ſenſible.

As the public generally ſuffers at the end of a war, by the ſudden diſmiſſion of a great number of ſoldiers and ſeamen, who, who having contracted a habit of idleneſs, and finding themſelves without employment and the means of ſubſiſtence, engage in deſperate courſes, and prey upon the community, it was judged expedient to provide an opening, through which theſe unquiet ſpirits might exhale without damage to the commonwealth. The moſt natural was that of encouraging them to become members of a new colony in North America, which, by being properly regulated, ſupported, and improved, might be the ſource of great advantages to its mother country. A patriotic individual had, in the year 1735, preſented a very judicious memorial and petition to the privy council, reſpecting the defenceleſs ſtate of that country, and the advantages which might be drawn from it. His repreſentations were diſregarded; but the miniſtry at length, began to conſider Nova Scotia as the very key to North America, and were now as much diſpoſed to over rate its value, as they had before been to neglect it altogether. Notwithſtanding the

the unfriendly nature of the ſoil here, and the country being overſpread with large trees, which can only be removed by immenſe labour, and when felled are unfit for the purpoſes of timber, yet many eſſential advantages were expected from an eſtabliſhment here; its ſituation making it convenient for annoying and intercepting an enemy; as it is a barrier for New England, affords a convenient port for the fiſhery of the neighbouring ſeas; and among its immenſe foreſts, many trees are found very uſeful for refitting the royal navy. But though this climate is in the temperate zone, the winters are long and ſevere, and followed by ſudden an exceſſive heats, to which generally ſucceed very thick fogs, that laſt a long time. Theſe circumſtances make this rather a diſagreeable country, though it cannot be reckoned an unwholeſome one.

Many diſputes had ariſen between the ſubjects of England and the French, concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, which no treaty had as yet properly aſcertained. A fort had been raiſed, and a ſmall garriſon maintained, by the King of Great Britain, at a part of this very country called Annapolis Royal, to overawe the French neutrals ſettled in the neighbourhood: but this did not anſwer the purpoſe for which it was intended. Upon every rupture or diſpute between the two crowns, theſe planters, forgetting their neutrality, intrigued with the Indians, communicated intelligence to their own countrymen ſettled at St. John's and Cape Breton, and did all the ill offices their hatred could ſuggeſt againſt the colonies and ſubjects of Great Britain.

A ſcheme was now formed for making a new eſtabliſhment on the ſame peninſula, which ſhould further confirm and extend the property and dominion of the crown of Great Britain in that large tract of country, clear the uncultivated grounds, conſtitute communities, diffuſe the benefits of population and agriculture, and

and improve the fiſhery of that coaſt, which might be rendered a new ſource of wealth and commerce to Great Britain. The particulars of the plan, being duly conſidered, were laid before his majeſty, who approved of the deſign, and referred the execution of it to the board of trade and plantations, over which the Earl of Halifax preſided. The commiſſioners immediately adverti ſed, under the ſanction of his majeſty's authority, that proper encouragement would be given to ſuch of the officers and private men, lately diſmiſſed from the land and ſea ſervice, as were willing to ſettle with or without families, in the province of Nova Scotia; that the fee-ſimple, or perpetual property, of fifty acres of land, ſhould be granted to every private ſoldier or ſeaman, free from the payment of any quit-rents or taxes for the term of ten years; at the expiration of which no perſon ſhould pay more than one ſhilling per annum for fifty acres ſo granted. That the lands ſhould be parcelled out as ſoon as poſſible, after the arrival of the coloniſts, and a civil government eſtabliſhed; in conſequence of which they ſhould enjoy all the liberties and privileges of Britiſh ſubjects, with proper ſecurity and protection: that the ſettlers, with their families, ſhould be conveyed to Nova Scotia, and maintained for twelve months after their arrival, at the expence of the government; which would alſo ſupply them with arms and ammunition, as far as ſhould be judged neceſſary for their defence, with proper materials and utenſils for clearing and cultivating their lands, erecting habitations, exerciſing the fiſhery, and ſuch other purpoſes as ſhould be judged neceſſary for their ſupport.

The ſcheme was ſo feaſible, and the encouragement ſo inviting, that, in a little time, about four thouſand adventurers, with their families, were entered, according to the directions of the board of trade. In the beginning of May, 1749, they ſet ſail

from England, under the command of Colonel Cornwallis, whom the king had appointed their governor. Sir Edward Hawke commanded the fleet. Towards the latter end of June they arrived at the place of their deſtination, which was the harbour of Chebuctou, on the ſea-coaſt of the peninſula, about midway between Cape Canceau and Cape Sable. It is one of the moſt ſecure and commodious havens in the world, and well ſituated for the fiſhery; but the climate is cold, and the ſoil barren.

Governor Cornwallis no ſooner arrived in this harbour, than he was joined by two regiments of infantry from Cape Breton, a company of rangers from Annapolis. He then pitched upon a ſpot for the ſettlement, and employed his people in clearing the ground, in order to lay the foundations of a town; but ſome inconveniencies being diſcovered in the ſituation, he choſe one more to the northward, hard by the harbour, on an eaſy aſcent, that commands a proſpect of the whole peninſula, and is well ſupplied with rivulets of freſh and wholeſome water. Here, on a regular plan, he began to build a town, to which he gave the name of Halifax, in honour of the nobleman who had the greateſt ſhare in founding the colony; and, before the approach of winter, above three hundred comfortable wooden houſes were built, the whole being ſurrounded by a ſtrong palliſade.

The eſtabliſhment of ſuch a powerful colony in Nova Scotia, could not fail giving umbrage to the French in that neighbourhood, who, though they did not think proper to promulgate their jealouſy and diſguſt, nevertheleſs employed their emiſſaries clandeſtinely in ſtimulating and exciting the Indians to harraſs the coloniſts with hoſtilities, in ſuch a manner as ſhould effectually hinder them from extending their plantations, and perhaps induce them to abandon the ſettlement. Nor was this the only part of America in which the French court countenanced ſuch perfidious practices.

practices. More than ever convinced of the importance of a conſiderable navy, and an extenſive plantation trade, they not only exerted uncommon induſtry in re-eſtabliſhing their marine, which had ſuffered ſo ſeverely during the war; but they reſolved, if poſſible, to extend their plantations in the Weſt-Indies, by ſettling the neutral iſlands. In the beginning of the year the governor of Barbadoes, having received intelligence that the French had begun to ſettle in the iſland of Tobago, ſent Captain Tyrrel thither in a frigate, to learn the particulars. That officer found above three hundred men already landed, ſecured by two batteries and two ſhips of war, and in daily expectation of a further reinforcement from the Marquis de Caylus, governor of Martinique; who had publiſhed an ordonnance, authoriſing the ſubjects of the French king to ſettle the iſland of Tobago, and promiſing to defend them from the attempts of all their enemies. This aſſurance was in anſwer to a proclamation iſſued by Mr. Grenville, governor of Barbadoes, and ſtuck up in different parts of the iſland, commanding all the inhabitants to remove within thirty days, on pain of undergoing military execution. Captain Tyrrel, with a ſpirit that became a commander in the Britiſh navy, gave the French officers to underſtand, that his moſt chriſtian majeſty had no right to ſettle the iſland, which was declared neutral by treaties; and that, if they would not deſiſt, he ſhould be obliged to employ force in driving them from their new ſettlement. Night coming on, Mr. Tyrrel's ſhip falling to leeward, the French captains ſeized that opportunity of ſailing to Martinique; and next day the Engliſh commander returned to Barbadoes, having no power to commit hoſtilities. Theſe tidings, with a copy of the French governor's ordonnance, were no ſooner tranſmitted to the miniſtry, than they diſpatched a courier to the Engliſh envoy at Paris, with directions to make repreſentations to the

court of Verſailles on this ſubject. The miniſtry of France, knowing they were in no condition to ſupport the conſequences of an immediate rupture, and underſtanding how much the merchants and people of Great Britain were alarmed and incenſed at their attempts to poſſeſs theſe iſlands, thought proper to diſown the proceedings of the Marquis de Caylus, and to grant the ſatisfaction that was demanded, by ſending him orders to diſcontinue the ſettlement, and evacuate the iſland of Tobago. At the ſame time, however, that the court of Verſailles made this ſacrifice for the ſatisfaction of England, the Marquis de Phyſieux, the French miniſter, obſerved to the Engliſh reſident, that France was undoubtedly in poſſeſſion of that iſland towards the middle of the laſt century. He ought in candour to have added, that although Louis XIV. made a conqueſt of this iſland from the Hollanders, during his war with that republic, it was reſtored to them by the treaty of Nimeguen; and ſince that time France could not have the leaſt ſhadow of a claim to number it among her ſettlements.

Among thoſe princes and powers who excepted againſt different articles of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Chevalier de St. George, foreſeeing that none of the plenipotentiaries would receive his proteſt, employed his agents to fix it up in the public places of Aix-la-Chapelle; a precaution of very little ſervice to his cauſe, which all the ſtates in Chriſtendom ſeemed now to have adandoned. So little was the intereſt of his family conſidered in this negociation, that the contracting powers agreed, without reſerve, to the literal inſertion of the fifth article of the quadruple alliance; by which it was ſtipulated, that neither the pretender nor any of his deſcendants ſhould be allowed to reſide within the territories belonging to any of the ſubſcribing parties. At the ſame time the plenipotentiaries of France promiſed to thoſe of Great Britain, that Prince Charles Edward ſhould be immediately

mediately obliged to quit the dominions of his moſt chriſtian majeſty. Notice of this agreement was accordingly given by the court of Verſailles to the young adventurer: and, as he had declared he would never return to Italy, Monſieur de Courteille, the French envoy to the Cantons of Swiſſerland, was directed by his ſovereign to demand an aſylum for Prince Edward in the city of Fribourg. The regency having complied in this particular, Mr. Burnaby, the Britiſh miniſter to the Helvetic body, took the alarm, and preſented a remonſtrance, couched in ſuch terms as gave offence to that regency, and drew upon him a ſevere anſwer. In vain had the French king exerted his influence in procuring this retreat for the young pretender, who, being preſſed with repeated meſſages to withdraw, perſiſted in refuſing to quit the place, to which he had been ſo cordially invited by his couſin the King of France; and where he ſaid that monarch had ſolemnly promiſed, on the word of a king, that he would never forſake him in his diſtreſs, nor abandon the intereſts of his family. Louis was not a little perplexed at this obſtinacy of Prince Edward, which was the more vexatious, as that youth appeared to be the darling of the Pariſians; who not only admired him for his own accompliſhments, and pitied him for his ſufferings, but alſo revered him, as a young hero lineally deſcended from their renowned Henry IV. At length, the two Engliſh noblemen arriving at Paris, as hoſtages for the performance of the treaty, and ſeeing him appear at all public places of diverſion, complained of this circumſtance, as an inſult to their ſovereign, and an infringement of the treaty ſo lately concluded. The French king, after ſome heſitation between punctilio and convenience, reſolved to employ violence upon the perſon of this troubleſome ſtranger, ſince milder remonſtrances had not been able to influence his conduct: but this reſolution was not taken till the return of a courier whom he diſpatched

patched to the Chevalier de St. George; who, being thus informed of his ſon's deportment, wrote a letter to him, laying ſtrong injunctions upon him, to yield to the neceſſity of the times, and acquieſce with a good grace to the ſtipulations which his couſin of France had found it neceſſary to ſubſcribe, for the intereſt of his realm. Edward, far from complying with this advice and injunction, ſignified his reſolution to remain in Paris; and even declared, that he would piſtol any man who ſhould preſume to lay violent hands on his perſon. In conſequence of this bold declaration, it was determined to arreſt him without further delay; and that ſame evening, the prince entering the narrow lane that leads to the opera, the barrier was immediately ſhut, and the ſerjeant of the guard called "To arms;" on which Monſieur de Vaudreuil, exempt of the French guards, advancing to Edward, "Prince (ſaid he,) I arreſt you in the king's name, by virtue of this order." At that inſtant the youth was ſurrounded by four grenadiers, in order to prevent any miſchief he might have done with a caſe of pocket piſtols, which he always carried about him; and a guard was placed at all the avenues and doors of the opera-houſe, leſt any tumult ſhould have enſued among the populace. Theſe precautions being taken, Vaudreuil, with an eſcorte, conducted the priſoner through the garden of the palais royal to a houſe where the Duke de Biron waited with a coach and ſix to convey him to the caſtle of Vincennes, whither he was immediately accompanied by a detachment from the regiment of French guards, under the command of that nobleman. He had not remained above three days in this confinement when he gave the French miniſtry to underſtand, that he would conform himſelf to the king's intentions; and was immediately enlarged, upon giving his word and honour, that he would, without delay, retire from the dominions of France. Accordingly, he ſet out in four days from Fontainebleau,

Fontainebleau, attended by three officers, who conducted him as far as Pont Beauvoſin on the frontiers, where they took their leave of him, and returned to Verſailles. He proceeded for ſome time in the road to Chamberri; but ſoon returned into the French dominions, and, paſſing through Dauphiné, repaired to Avignon, where he was received with extraordinary honours by the pope's legate.

Although peace was now re-eſtabliſhed among the principal powers of the continent, yet another ſtorm ſeemed ready to burſt upon the northern parts of Europe, in a freſh rupture between Ruſſia and Sweden. Whether the czarina had actually obtained information that the French faction meditated ſome revolution of the government of Stockholm, or ſhe wanted a pretence for annexing Finland to her empire; certain it is, ſhe affected to apprehend that the prince ſucceſſor of Sweden waited only for the deceaſe of the reigning king, who was very old and infirm, to change the form of government, and reſume that abſolute authority which ſome of the monarchs, his predeceſſors, had enjoyed. She ſeemed to think that a prince thus veſted with arbitrary power, and guided by the councils of France and Pruſſia, with which Sweden had lately engaged in cloſe alliance, might become a very troubleſome and dangerous neighbour to her in the Baltic: ſhe, therefore, recruited her armies, repaired her fortifications, filled her magazines, ordered a ſtrong body of troops to advance towards the frontiers of Finland, and declared in plain terms to the court of Stockholm, that if any ſtep ſhould be taken to alter the government, which ſhe had bound herſelf by treaty to maintain, her troops ſhould enter the territory of Sweden, and ſhe would act up to the ſpirit of her engagements. The Swediſh miniſtry, alarmed at theſe peremptory proceedings, had recourſe to their allies; and, in the mean time, made repeated declarations to the court of Peterſburgh, that there was no deſign to make

make the leaſt innovation in the nature of their eſtabliſhed government: but, little or no regard being paid to theſe repreſentations, they began to put the kingdom in a poſture of defence; and the old king gave the czarina to underſtand, that if, notwithſtanding the ſatisfaction he had offered, her forces ſhould paſs the frontiers of Finland, he would conſider their march as an hoſtile invaſion, and employ the means which God had put in his power for the defence of his dominions. This declaration, in all probability, did not produce ſuch effect as the interpoſition of his Pruſſian majeſty, the moſt enterpriſing prince of his time, at the head of one hundred and forty thouſand of the beſt troops that Germany ever trained. Perhaps he was not ſorry that the Empreſs of Muſcovy furniſhed him with a plauſible pretence for maintaining ſuch a formidable army, after the peace of Europe had been aſcertained by a formal treaty, and all the ſurrounding ſtates had diminiſhed the number of their forces. He now wrote a letter to his uncle the King of Great Britain, complaining of the inſults and menaces which had been offered by the czarina to Sweden; declaring, that he was bound by a defenſive alliance, to which France had acceded, to defend the government at preſent eſtabliſhed in Sweden; and that he would not ſit ſtill, and tamely ſee that kingdom attacked by any power whatſoever, without acting up to his engagements: he therefore entreated his Britanic majeſty to interpoſe his good offices, in conjunction with France and him, to compromiſe the diſputes which threatened to embroil the northern parts of Europe. By this time the Ruſſian army had approached the frontiers of Finland: the Swedes had aſſembled their troops, repleniſhed their magazines, and repaired their marine; and the King of Denmark, jealous of the czarina's deſigns with regard to the duchy of Sleſwick, which was conteſted with him by the prince ſucceſſor of Ruſſia, kept his army and navy

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on the moſt reſpectable footing. At this critical juncture the courts of London, Verſailles, and Berlin, cooperated ſo effectually by remonſtrances and declarations at Peterſburgh and Stockholm, that the Empreſs of Ruſſia thought proper to own herſelf ſatisfied, and all thoſe clouds of trouble were immediately diſperſed. Yet, in all probability, her real aim was diſappointed; and, however ſhe might diſſemble her ſentiments, ſhe never heartily forgave the King of Pruſſia for the ſhare he had in this tranſaction.

Nor did the French miniſtry neglect any meaſure that might contribute to repair the damage which the kingdom had ſuſtained in the courſe of the war. One half of the army was diſbanded: the ſevere impoſition of the tenth penny was ſuſpended by the king's edict: a ſcheme of economy was propoſed, with reſpect to the finances; and the utmoſt diligence uſed in procuring materials, as well as workmen, for ſhip-building, that the navy of France might ſpeedily retrieve its former importance. At Vienna, the empreſs queen was not more ſolicitous in promoting the trade and internal manufactures of her dominions, by ſumptuary regulations, neceſſary reſtrictions on foreign ſuperfluities, by opening her ports in the Adriatic, and giving proper encouragement to commerce, than ſhe was careful and provident in reforming the economy of her finances, maintaining a reſpectable body of forces, and guarding by defenſive alliances, againſt the enterpriſes of his Pruſſian majeſty, on whoſe military power ſhe looked with jealouſy and diſtruſt. The King of Spain, ſincerely diſpoſed to cultivate the arts of peace, and encourage every meaſure that could contribute to the advantage of his country, was no ſooner releaſed from the embarraſſments of war, than he began to execute plans of internal economy; to reduce unneceſſary penſions, diſcharge the debts contracted in the war, repleniſh his arſenals, augment his navy, promote manufactures, and encourage an ac-

tive commerce by sea, the benefits of which the kingdom of Spain had not known since the first discovery and conquest of the West-Indies.

The preparations for refitting and increasing the navy of Spain were carried on with such extraordinary vigour, that other nations believed an expedition was intended against the corsairs of Algiers, who had for some time grievously infested the trade and coasts of the Mediterranean. The existence of this and other predatory republics, which entirely subsist upon piracy and rapine, petty states of barbarous ruffians, maintained, as it were, in the midst of powerful nations, which they insult with impunity, and of which they even exact an annual contribution, is a flagrant reproach upon Christendom; a reproach the greater, as it is founded upon a low, selfish, illiberal, maxim of policy. All the powers that border on the Mediterranean, except France and Tuscany, are at perpetual war with the Moors of Barbary, and, for that reason, obliged to employ foreign ships for the transportation of their merchandize. This employment naturally devolves on those nations whose vessels are in no danger from the depredations of the barbarians; namely, the subjects of the maritime powers, who, for this puny advantage, not only tolerate the piratical states of Barbary, but even supply them with arms and ammunition, solicit their passes, and purchase their forbearance with annual presents, which are, in effect, equivalent to a tribute: whereas, by one vigorous exertion of their power, they might destroy all their ships, lay their towns in ashes, and totally extirpate those pernicious broods of desperate banditti.—Even all the condescension of those who disgrace themselves with the title of allies to these miscreants is not always sufficient to restrain them from acts of cruelty and rapine. At this very period four cruisers from Algiers fell in with the Prince Frederic packet-boat, bound from Lisbon to Falmouth, which they detained under the frivolous

frivolous pretext, that the captain named in the commiſſion was not on board, and that the money and diamonds with which ſhe was freighted belonged to Jews. They therefore carried her into Algiers, where they plundered her of all the effects on-board, eſtimated at 100,000l. and detained the veſſel twenty-three days; after which they ſuffered her to proceed on her voyage, and ſhe arrived at Falmouth on the 7th of May, 1749. This outrage occaſioned ſeven ſhips of war to be fitted out immediately, the command of which was given to Commodore Keppel, who took on-board certain preſents to the dey, the forwarding of which had been neglected, and which that prince, having been long accuſtomed to receive, laid claim to by preſcription: the commodore was likewiſe charged with a letter from the ſecretary of ſtate, demanding reſtitution of the effects which had been thus ſeized. Mr. Keppel arrived there the beginning of Auguſt, and in an audience of the dey made known the purport of his embaſſy. The muſſulman accepted the preſents; but declared himſelf unable to make the required reſtitution, as the property in queſtion was now diſperſed among individuals, from whom it could by no means be collected. The commodore, finding he could obtain no anſwer more ſatisfactory, proceeded to Port Mahon, from whence he diſpatched the Tryal ſloop, for further inſtructions from the admiralty; but the times were now changed, ſince the inſolence of theſe lawleſs free-booters uſed to be chaſtiſed by the intrepidity of Engliſhmen. Government thought fit to paſs by the affront, and received an ambaſſador from the Algerines, when as guardians of the nation's honour, they ſhould have directed the brave officer whom they had deputed, to lay Algiers in aſhes.

This tranſaction was ſucceeded by another injurious affront, offered by the governor or alcayde of Tetuan to Mr. Latton, an Engliſh ambaſſador, ſent

thither to redeem the Britiſh ſubjects who had been many years enſlaved in the dominions of the King of Morocco. A revolution having lately happened in this empire, Muley Abdallah, the reigning ruffian, inſiſted upon the ambaſſador's paying a pretended balance for the ranſom of the captives, as well as depoſiting a conſiderable ſum, which had already been paid to a deceaſed baſhaw; alleging, that, as he (the emperor) received no part of it, the payment was illegal. Mr. Latton refuſing to comply with this arbitrary demand, his houſe was ſurrounded by a detachment of ſoldiers, who violently dragged his ſecretary from his preſence, and threw him into a diſmal ſubterraneous dungeon, where he continued twenty days. The Engliſh ſlaves, to the number of twenty-ſeven, were condemned to the ſame fate; the ambaſſador himſelf was degraded from his character, deprived of his allowance, and ſequeſtered from all communication. All the letters directed to him were intercepted, and interpreted to the alcayde: two negro porters were entruſted with the keys of all his apartments, and a couple of ſoldiers poſted at his chamber door: nay, this Mooriſh governor threatened to load him with irons, and violently ſeized part of the preſents deſigned by his Britannic majeſty for the emperor. At length, finding that neither Mr. Latton nor the governor of Gibraltar, to whom he had written, would depoſit the money, without freſh inſtructions from the court of London, the barbarian thought proper to relax in his ſeverity: the priſoners were enlarged, the reſtrictions removed from the perſon of the ambaſſador; and, after all theſe indignities offered to the honour of the Britiſh nation, the balance was paid, and the affair quietly adjuſted.

Notwithſtanding the parliament did not riſe until the 13th of June, yet it met again on the 16th of November; ten thouſand ſeamen were voted for the ſervice of the year 1750; and the land-force was

continued

continued at eighteen thouſand eight hundred and fifty-ſeven. The ſums granted for making good his majeſty's engagements with the Elector of Bavaria and Mentz, and the Duke of Brunſwick Wolfenbuttle, amounted to 53,225l. ſterling. The ſervices done by the colonies in North America, during the war, were gratified with the ſum of 122,246l. The expence incurred by the new colony of Nova Scotia exceeded 76,000l. A ſmall ſum was voted for the improvement of Georgia, and 10,000l. were granted towards the ſupport of the Britiſh forts and ſettlements on the coaſt of Africa. The ſum total granted in this ſeſſion aroſe to 4,141,661l. 9s. 11½d.

The capital meaſure which diſtinguiſhed this ſeſſion of parliament was the reduction of the intereſt on the public funds; a ſcheme which was planned and executed by the miniſter, without any national diſturbance or diſquiet, to the aſtoniſhment of all Europe; the different nations of which could not comprehend how it would be poſſible for the government, at the cloſe of a long expenſive war, which had ſo conſiderably drained the country, and augmented the enormous burthen of national debt, to find money for paying off ſuch of the public creditors as might chooſe to receive their principal, rather than ſubmit to a reduction of the intereſt. The reſolutions of the commons on this head, were printed by authority it the London Gazette, ſignifying, that thoſe who were, or ſhould be, proprietors of any part of the public debt, redeemable by law, incurred before Michaelmas, 1749, carrying an intereſt of four per cent. per annum, who ſhould, on or before the 28th of February, in that year, ſubſcribe their name, ſignifying their conſent to accept of an intereſt of three per cent. to commence from the 25th of December, 1757, ſhould continue to receive 4 per cent. until the 25th of December, 1750, and from thence 3½ per cent. until the 25th of December, 1757. When the act was paſſed, and public notice

notice thereof given, the greater part of the public creditors aſſented to the terms propoſed. The market price of the public funds at that time being ſo much above par, as to make it more the intereſt of the ſtock-holder to continue his property there, than to receive from government no more than the principal money firſt advanced. The three companies of the Bank, Eaſt-India, and South-Sea, however, would not ſubſcribe; and, when the account of the ſums which had been ſubſcribed was delivered into the houſe of commons in March following, it appeared that between eight and nine millions were not ſubſcribed, beſides the debts due to the three great companies in their corporate capacity. The miniſter, previous to the ſetting on foot this plan, had guarded againſt the conſequences that might ariſe from the reſtive humour of the ſtock-holders, by having obtained from the monied men of the nation, aſſurances of their aſſiſtance to any amount that, conſidering the real value that money then bore, could poſſibly be required; ſo that he was provided with the means of paying off ſuch non-ſubſcribers, by creating new loans on the terms which had been rejected by the preſent creditors. But this ability he was not willing to exert. He rather choſe to allow farther time to ſuch as had neglected to cloſe with the firſt offer; but, that they might in ſome meaſure ſuffer by their contumacy, the intereſt of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum was propoſed to be paid to theſe ſecond ſet of ſubſcribers no longer than the 25th of December, 1755. To afford them an opportunity of doing which, ſubſcriptions were received until the 30th of May, 1750. Thus the ſecond ſubſcribers had a reduction of their intereſt from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. two years ſooner than thoſe of the firſt ſubſcription. Such as remained finally determined not to ſubſcribe, had their principal money paid out of the ſinking-fund. The act of parliament which authoriſed this ſtep, contained a clauſe which empowered the Eaſt-India company,

pany, in case they subscribed all their stock within the time limited, to borrow any sum not exceeding 4,200,000l. by sale of annuities, viz. 3,200,000l. after the several rates of interests in the terms of this second subscription, and 1,000,000l. more at 3 per cent. The three companies at length reluctantly acquiesced in a measure, which by opposing they would have sustained a considerable loss, without preventing the regulation taking place. It was a trial of strength between the minister and those great commercial bodies, which the wants of government had first given existence to.

The mutiny-bill for the ensuing year was mitigated with an essential alteration, relating to the oath of secresy imposed upon the members of every court-martial, who were now released from this reserve, if required to give evidence by due course of law in any court of judicature; and whereas, by the former mutiny-bill, a general was empowered to order the revisal of any sentence, by a court-martial, as often as he pleased, and, on that pretence, to keep in confinement a man who had been acquitted upon a fair trial, it was now enacted, that no sentence pronounced by any court-martial, and signed by the president, should be more than once liable to revisal. Colonel George Townshend, son of Lord Viscount Townshend, who had equally distinguished himself by his civil and military accomplishments, proposed another clause, for preventing any non-commissioned officer being broke or reduced into the ranks, or any soldier being punished, but by the sentence of a court-martial. He gave the house to understand, that certain persons attended at the door, who, from the station of non-commissioned officers, had been broke, and reduced into the ranks, without trial, or any cause assigned; and he expatiated not only upon the iniquity of such proceedings, but also upon the danger of leaving such arbitrary power in the hands of any individual officer.

A warm

A warm debate was the consequence of this motion, which, however, was over-ruled by the majority.

On the 5th of October, 1750, a treaty was concluded at Madrid, between Great Britain and Spain, by which the right of the South-Sea company in the assiento treaty for four years was given up. The sum of 100,000l. was agreed to be paid by the King of Spain, as a compensation to the company for their losses, and as a full balance of all accounts. The duties to be paid by British subjects in the ports of Spain, were reduced to the rates established by Charles II. of Spain; and the English were allowed to procure salt from the island of Tortudos in the West-Indies. All British subjects residing in Spain were to be put on the same footing with the subjects of the most favoured foreign nation residing there. By this treaty a period was finally put to all foreign commerce whatever, of the South-Sea company.

The northern American colonies were enabled to set on foot a new branch of commerce, by an act of parliament now passed to encourage the importation of pig and bar iron from his majesty's colonies in America; but they were prohibited by the same act from erecting any mill or other engine for slitting or rolling of iron, or any plating forge to work with a tilt hammer, or any furnace for making of steel. The nation derived great advantages by this encouragement given to the colonies: before the passing of this law, iron used to be purchased from Sweden on very high terms, and for which ready money was paid; henceforth it was procured from British subjects, who in exchange received the manufactures of the mother country.

The trade to the coast of Guinea engaged the attention of the legislature. The trade was originally monopolized by a joint-stock company, which had from time to time received considerable sums from parliament to enable them to maintain fortifications on the

the coaſt of Africa, in order to protect the commerce carried on there; it was now thought neceſſary to lay open that trade for all Britiſh ſubjects, and that the forts and ſettlements on that extenſive coaſt ſhould be kept up at the public expence; but that all ſuch as trade to or from the coaſt of Africa, from Cape Blanco quite to the Cape of Good Hope, ſhould be conſidered as a body-corporate, though not trading in their corporate capacity, not having any joint or transferrable ſtock, nor the privilege of borrowing money on their common ſeal. The direction of the affairs of this new company was entruſted to a committee of nine perſons, annually choſen, who were to meet in the city of London; the majority of whom had a power given them to make orders for the governing and improving the forts, factories, &c. but they were reſtricted from interfering with the trade or traders. All ſuch as deſigned to trade to Africa were to pay forty ſhillings to the chamberlain of London, for an admiſſion into the freedom of this company, and every individual thus admitted had a right to vote for three perſons, who were to compoſe the committee for London; the like fine was required from every Briſtol trader, and theſe traders alſo choſe three committee-men; and the ſame regulation was made for Liverpool. This committee was to be choſen annually. The money ariſing from theſe fines to be applied to the diſcharge of the wages, ſalaries, &c. of the officers employed in the ſettlements, and to the preſervation of the forts. The accounts of the manner in which the money ſo ariſing was diſpoſed of, were to be regularly kept in London, and ſubject to the inſpection of any member of the company. The conduct of this body of men was ſubject to the ſuperintendency of the commiſſioners of trade and plantations. The committee was authorized to deduct annually eight hundred pounds for defraying the ſalaries of their clerks, at the three ports of London, Briſtol,

and Liverpool, and all other incidental expences, and whatever ſurplus remained of that ſum, after all charges were defrayed, the committee were empowered to divide among themſelves, as a compenſation for their trouble. Soon after theſe regulations took place, the Britiſh parliament voted to the old royal African company the ſum of 112,142l. 3s. 3d. as a compenſation for their charter, lands, forts, ſlaves, ſtores, and other effects.

In the year 1751, died Frederic prince of Wales, his preſent majeſty's father. His royal highneſs, in conſequence of a cold caught in his garden at Kew, was ſeized with a pleuritic diſorder; and, after a ſhort illneſs, expired on the 20th of March.

The moſt remarkable act which paſſed in the ſeſſion of 1751, was that of regulating throughout Great Britain and the dominions ſubject to the Britiſh crown, the commencement of the year, and for correcting the calendar according to the Gregorian computation, which had been adopted by all the other nations of Europe. By this law it was decreed, that the new year ſhould begin on the firſt of January, and that eleven intermediate nominal days, between the 2d and 14th days of September 1752, ſhould in that year be omitted, ſo that the day ſucceeding the 2d ſhould be denominated the 14th of that month. The Julian calendar, or old ſtyle, ſuppoſed the tropical year to conſiſt of three hundred and ſixty-five days and ſix hours. In the year 1582, Gregory XIII. the then pope, by the help of the beſt aſtronomers, diſcovered the error in this calculation, which was eleven minutes and five ſeconds more than the exact time. It appeared that in one hundred and twenty-nine years and three hundred and thirty-ſeven days and a half it made an error of one whole day, and in four hundred Julian years, an error of three days, one hour, fifty-three minutes, and twenty ſeconds. Since the time of the council of Nice, in the year 325, to the year 1701,

1701, the old ſtyle was computed to have occaſioned an error of eleven days, by which the vernal equinox appeared to happen eleven days ſooner than by the N. S. it really does, ſo that the 10th of March was more properly the 21ſt. The object with the pontiff, in rectifying this error, was to ſettle the true time for celebrating the feaſt of Eaſter; but the chief view of the Britiſh legiſlature in making this innovation, was to derive mercantile benefits therefrom; the difference of eleven days frequently occaſioning errors and miſtakes in buſineſs; and as the legal year began on the 25th of March, a whole year was frequently miſtaken, through inadvertency in our chronological hiſtories. The year from thenceforth was appointed to commence on the 1ſt of January, with all the reſt of Chriſtendom.

In the beginning of March, 1754, died Mr. Pelham; his loſs was not only felt by his ſovereign, but by the nation in general. This miniſter was ſo fortunate as to preſerve the public good opinion, even while he purſued meaſures which were not entirely approved. The loſs of ſuch a head was the more deeply felt at this juncture, being the eve of a general election for a new parliament, when every adminiſtration is ſuppoſed to exert itſelf with redoubled vigilance and circumſpection. He had already concerted the meaſures for ſecuring a majority, and his plan was faithfully executed by his friends and adherents, who continued to engroſs the adminiſtration. His brother, the Duke of Newcaſtle, was appointed firſt lord commiſſioner of the treaſury, and was ſucceeded as ſecretary of ſtate by Sir Thomas Robinſon, who had long reſided as ambaſſador at the court of Vienna.

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